Bengaluru Saturday, August 16, 2025 Pages 28 Vol 78 No 227 ₹8

WHACKYVERSE

DH on Saturday
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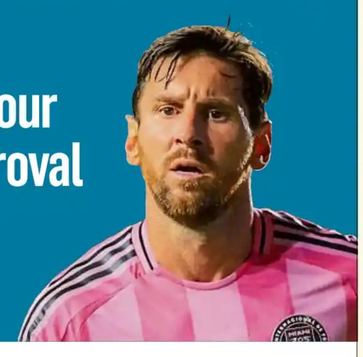
Messi's India tour gets final approval

PAGE 16



Umpire's diary: When a million eyes are on you

A former umpire writes about the highs and lows of the profession

Being a cricket umpire is a high pressure job. A single decision can influence not just the match but also the course of the game's history.

In this week's Saturday Story, a former cricket umpire offers a behind-the-scenes look at the profession. He talks about his own experiences on and off the field, the training he went through, and the challenges of dealing with the ire of players.

He also talks to seasoned international-level umpires who share their experiences. Umpires work on their fitness too. While on tour, they face the same challenge as players — they must get used to diverse climatic conditions.

Earlier, it was not a lucrative job. However, things have changed over the years.

Technology has definitely had an impact on the role of umpires. But tech tools are not always accurate. Umpires add a human touch to decision making, and that is hard to replace.

THE SATURDAY STORY

Full story, Page 13

PRIME MINISTER'S INDEPENDENCE DAY MESSAGING

- Foreign reliance on energy, critical minerals, defence can bring 'freedom into question'
- Asks pvt players to make India self-reliant in fertilisers
- Urges people to buy and use 'swadeshi' products
- Task force for reforms to support domestic manufacturers
- 'Make in India' semiconductor chips to be launched by year end
- Won't compromise on farmers and fishermen during trade talks
- Precision strikes inside Pakistan 'new normal'

Modi chants 'self-reliance' mantra at Red Fort

I-Day address amid Trump's tariff salvo; PM announces demography mission to check illegal immigration

SUMIT PANDE
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Amidst tariff tensions with the United States, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in his Independence Day address on Friday, gave a call for building a "self-reliant" India, while urging the nation to mitigate its foreign dependency on energy, critical minerals and defence sector as reliance on others can bring the country's "freedom into question".

The Prime Minister also warned of a "deliberate conspiracy" to alter the country's demography and announced the setting up of a High-Powered Demography Mission to address the changes, especially in bordering districts, that could impact "national security".

Modi's 12th consecutive I-Day address, the longest by any prime minister from the ramparts of the Red Fort, comes against the backdrop of protracted and acrimonious India-US trade talks, with President Donald Trump slapping a 25% tariff on Indian goods and announcing an additional 25% "penalty" for buying Russian oil, in what is being seen as the White House mounting pressure for access to Indian agriculture and allied markets.

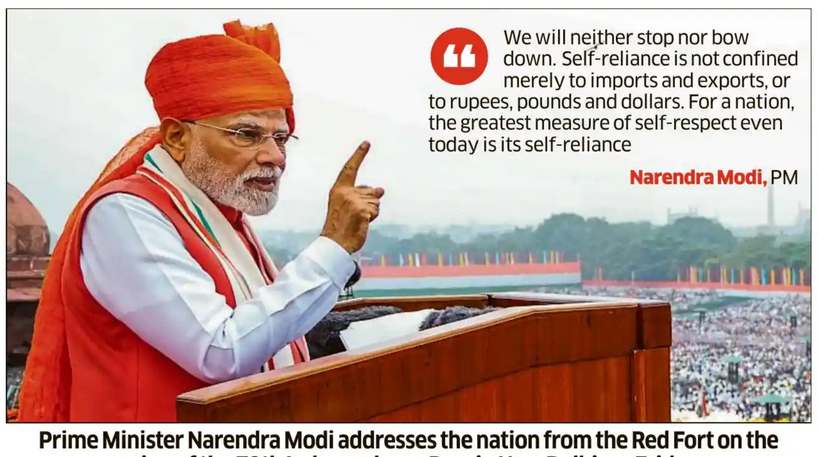
"We will neither stop nor bow down. Self-reliance is not confined merely to imports and exports, or to rupees, pounds and dollars. For a nation, the greatest measure of self-respect even today is its self-reliance," Modi said in his speech that spanned over 100 minutes under an overcast Delhi sky.

"India will never accept any compromise regarding its farmers, its livestock farmers, its fishermen," Modi said, reiterating the no-go areas as India re-negotiates its trade ties with the US.

To strengthen domestic markets in the face of the tariff war, the PM announced a task force for the next phase of reforms to support the domestic manufacturers.

Modi said 'Make in India' semiconductor chips would be launched by the year end, as he gave a call for innovation by Indian players in electric vehicles, deep-tech and artificial intelligence.

▸ Modi chants, Page 5


We will neither stop nor bow down. Self-reliance is not confined merely to imports and exports, or to rupees, pounds and dollars. For a nation, the greatest measure of self-respect even today is its self-reliance
Narendra Modi, PM

Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses the nation from the Red Fort on the occasion of the 79th Independence Day, in New Delhi, on Friday. PTI

Mission on for powerful shield weapon

PM Modi on Friday announced launching Mission Sudarshan Chakra — a powerful weapon to be built in 10 years — to provide a security shield to all important strategic and civilian installations including hospitals, railway lines and centres of faith. While he didn't provide any details, sources said the PM might have hinted at an indigenous ballistic missile defence shield.

Details on Page 8

PM promises GST bonanza on Diwali

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Several products and services are likely to become cheaper before the end of this year as PM Narendra Modi promised next-generation GST reforms and lower tax burden on the common man by Diwali.

"We are coming with the next generation of GST reforms, this will be a gift for you this Diwali, taxes needed by the common man will be reduced substantially, a lot of facilities will be increased," Modi said.

"Our MSMEs, our small entrepreneurs, will get a huge benefit. Everyday items will become very cheap and that will also give a new boost to the economy," he added.

Modi said the Centre has started the review of the GST system by setting up a high-power committee and holding discussions with states.

▸ GST, Page 5

Boy killed, 9 hurt in suspected LPG cylinder blast in B'luru

Explosion on I-Day sends police into a tizzy

BENGALURU, DHNS

A 10-year-old boy was killed and nine others injured in a suspected LPG cylinder explosion at Chinnayanpalya near Wilson Garden in central Bengaluru on Friday morning, officials said.

The explosion, recorded at 7.47 am on a CCTV and reviewed by *DH*, sent the authorities into a tizzy as it damaged 17 houses and coincided with Independence Day celebrations.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, his deputy D K Shivakumar, Transport Minister and local MLA Ramalinga Reddy, RDPR Minister Priyank Kharge, Bengaluru police commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh and BBMP Chief Commissioner M Maheshwar Rao inspected the site.

SDRF personnel and firemen at the site of explosion near Wilson Garden in Bengaluru on Friday. DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

The Central Crime Branch's anti-terrorism cell, Scene Of Crime Officers (SOCO) and bomb detection and disposal squad were also pressed into service.

The explosion occurred in the home of Aiyappa, a daily wage worker, who had left for work early. His wife Kasturi (35) and eight-year-old daughter Khayal are among those injured.

▸ LPG blast, Page 5

Farmers worried over poor state of TB dam's 6 crest gates

KOPPAL, DHNS: The six rickety and defective crest gates of the Tungabhadra reservoir have become a cause for worry to farmers.

Water release from these crest gates has been stopped as the dam authorities claimed that they have lost 80 to 90% of their strength.

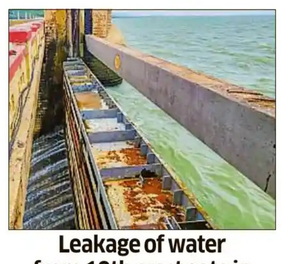
Officials say that these six gates may break if water is released through them and that the other gates have around 50-60% strength.

However, they maintained that there will be no problem as long as they maintain the storage level at 80 tmcft against the maximum capacity of 105 tmcft till the gates are replaced before next June.

Authorities have stopped water release from gates 11, 18, 20, 24, 27 and 28 and continued the water discharge from the other gates as the reservoir has been receiving good inflow due to abundant rainfall.

Last year, the 19th crest gate was washed away resulting in a huge amount of water discharge and a temporary gate was fixed after a week-long operation.

▸ TB dam, Page 5



Leakage of water from 19th crest gate in Tungabhadra reservoir

Nagaland Guv Ganesan dead

GUWAHATI, DHNS: Nagaland Governor, La Ganesan died in a private hospital in Chennai on Friday, where he was admitted following a fall and head injury.

He was 80.

An official at Raj Bhavan in Nagaland capital Kohima said Ganesan died at the Chennai hospital at 6.23pm.

Details on Page 9

Wall caves in near Humayun's Tomb, 6 dead

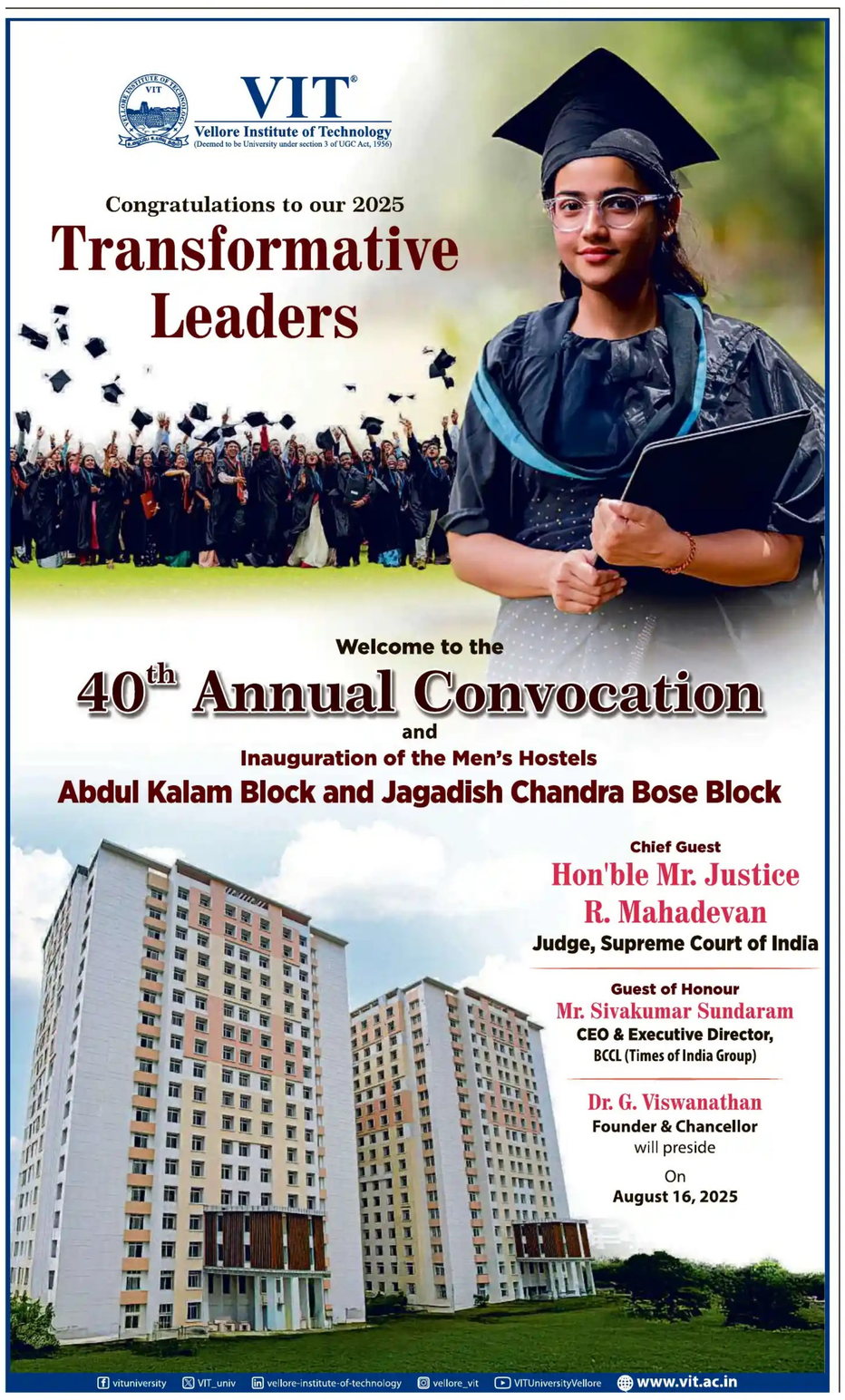
NEW DELHI, PTI: Six people were killed and five injured after the wall and the roof of two adjacent rooms of a dargah near the Humayun's Tomb in Delhi collapsed on Friday, officials said.

The dargah shares its walls with the 16th century garden-tomb commissioned by Humayun's first wife Bega Begum in 1558.

Details on Page 5

Ice-breaker

US President Donald Trump (right) and Russian President Vladimir Putin in Anchorage, Alaska, ahead of Ukraine ceasefire talks on Friday. AFP


VIT
Vellore Institute of Technology
(Deemed to be University under section 3 of UGC Act, 1956)
Congratulations to our 2025
Transformative Leaders
Welcome to the
40th Annual Convocation
and
Inauguration of the Men's Hostels
Abdul Kalam Block and Jagadish Chandra Bose Block
Chief Guest
Hon'ble Mr. Justice R. Mahadevan
Judge, Supreme Court of India
Guest of Honour
Mr. Sivakumar Sundaram
CEO & Executive Director, BCCL (Times of India Group)
Dr. G. Viswanathan
Founder & Chancellor
will preside
On
August 16, 2025
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Potato Chips
Lay's is the Registered Trade Mark of PepsiCo, Inc.
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#MRP Rs. 10 (Incl. of all taxes) for 25g.

BROKEN VOTER LISTS

Decades of neglect, countless errors

The evidence shows that electoral roll inaccuracies are a long-standing, systemic problem, causing a bloated voter roll

P G BHAT

When Rahul Gandhi visited Bengaluru last week, he highlighted the poor quality of electoral rolls across India by picking an example from the Mahadevapura constituency. This issue is not new. Many significant issues have plagued the quality of the electoral rolls of the country for a long time.

Duplicated records and invalid entries were a major problem. Deliberate and accidental deletion of voters due to software and process errors was another problem. In one case, voters from an entire street—BP Wadia Road—were deleted. Postmaster General admitted that his department cannot trace 50% addresses in the electoral rolls.

Many addresses are invalid—just one character long. Several addresses are wrong or do not exist. People are shown in the wrong addresses. Several couples living under one roof are shown in different parts. The one in the wrong address should be legally deleted when BLOs conduct regular reviews, which is part of their duties. Errors in name, spelling, age, sex, relationship, and address are more common.

To find out what exactly is wrong with the electoral rolls, voter data needs to be accessible for analysis. But now, it cannot be searched on PDF voter lists, as they have been only scanned images since 2017. We cannot extract data from these files as they are password-protected. Even if we extract data after Optical Character Recognition (OCR), it takes more than 5 minutes per record on a home PC. With close to 9,000 parts in Bengaluru, the OCR process can take more than a month.

A 2012 public interest litigation had raised the issue of wanton and wrongful deletion of 13.73 lakh voters out of about 65 lakh voters of Bengaluru, in addition to various data quality issues.

The Karnataka High Court, in its judgement, said: "... It appears that the grievances ventilated in the Writ Petitions are well-founded. It is submitted that the deletion of some names has been incorrectly carried out. The Chief Electoral Officer is expected to suo motu look into the issues raised in these proceedings, as also the correctness of deletions that have been carried out..."

After this, the deleted voter IDs were restored.

The problem with the voter roll is not Bengaluru-specific. In a similar instance of missing names of voters in the Lok Sabha voters list, Maharashtra Election Commissioner H S Brahma had apologised to Mumbaikars in 2014.

In 2013, the Chief Electoral Officer of Delhi stated that the electoral rolls of Delhi had about 15 lakh bogus voters, based on a house-to-house survey. There were several cases of duplicate entries. Notices were being sent to all the doubtful cases. That apart, the rolls had about 1.5 lakh EPIC numbers each with multiple records.

Voters have been unaware and ignorant about the changes being made to their elector's records. Also, it is not easy to find out the details.

For about ten years, Cdr Bikram Satpathi (Retd) has been trying to cleanse the electoral rolls of just two parts in Sarvagnanagar constituency. An email from him to the Assistant Electoral Registration Officer on July 8, 2023, gives the alarmingly large number of false entries in the electoral rolls of parts 177 and 184. Among the 1698 listed voters, only 901 are valid entries. He did not get any other reaction than royal ignorance and insults.

Muted political willpower

I have been active in analysing Karnataka voter rolls for nearly two decades now. In 2013, All India Congress Committee officials told the media that their party functionaries analysed electoral rolls of Karnataka, AP, and Delhi and found numerous errors. In 2014, the information technology head of Congress met with me and discussed in detail the quality issues in the Electoral Roll Management System.

Apart from this, KPCC Secretary and three more members visited me twice at home to discuss the issues and made elaborate notes. However, no follow-up action was taken, and there was no further communication.

I have met some elected MLAs of Bengaluru from multiple political parties and pleaded for their involvement in improving the system.

Co-operation Minister K N Rajanna recently said, "These irregularities happened right in front of our eyes — we should feel ashamed. We didn't take care of it at the time." However, he was sacked after this.

If political parties, including Congress, cared about truth, they should have acted at least 18 years ago when they were made aware of the irregularities in the ERMS. There have been newspaper reports, court cases, and the responsibilities of the political parties. While the political parties have several privileges, they should not ignore their responsibilities. It is a privilege, because what they do changes the world; it is a responsibility.

I have also met some election commissioners and presented the issues in ERMS processes. I have offered help in reducing their work and improving the quality of the electoral rolls. They have been personally kind, agreeing with my observations, but apathetic in action. Often, the exposure led to more data denial.

On January 23, 2012, CEC stated, "The Election Commission had made significant progress in making the electoral process more transparent." In 2014, the chief election commissioner again announced that India would be the first country to have no duplication in the voters' list.

However, the election commission denies the problems when we show evidence and demonstrate the poor quality of ERMS. Often, they talk about voter apathy. The organisation and data have become more opaque since then.

A claim untrue

Rahul Gandhi's claim that the voter lists were tampered with just before the elections in 2024 is untrue. The quality of the electoral rolls of Mahadevapura has been poor, just like other constituencies of Bengaluru. Also, it is not possible to give an exact number of duplicate entries in the electoral rolls; we can only give a suspected number.

According to my analysis, voter lists had suspected duplicates and inaccuracies three years before the 2024 election—they were not inserted just before the elections. Some of them might have been deleted by 2025.

For example, in January 2021, the Mahadevapura Constituency had 735 suspected duplicate entries within the same house, 2,144 duplications in the other houses in the same part, and 28,188 duplications in other parts of the constituency. The total number of suspected duplications was 31,067.

As many as 11,555 house numbers were blank, 8.500 houses with house number 0, 2,961 with house number 00 and 20 houses with 000 number. Male voters had "Husband's Name." We have cases when a female was listed as male and was denied her right to vote.

In one sample case, when we check the National Voter Service Portal (NSVP) with the EPIC number, the results in English show the voter to be Joseph, S/O Shanthappa, and in English, it is Tejaswini, S/O Mahadev. Yes, Tejawini is male in the rolls.

As many as 409 voters, forming 26.22% of the voter list for part 305 of the Mahadevapura Assembly Constituency, were disqualified from being voters in the new electoral rolls published by the CEO-KA on 11 January 11 2016.

Couples living together are often registered in different parts. They could be deleted during address verification by BLOs as part of their duty. However, BLOs are found only on paper and not in person. Nineteen important duties assigned to them are not undertaken, diluting the quality of ERMS.

Such anomalies have existed there for at least 18 years. There are many such absurd errors and mysteries in the voter lists of all the constituencies, including Mahadevapura.

Beyond partisan politics

The evidence shows that electoral roll inaccuracies are a long-standing, systemic problem affecting multiple states and constituencies.

The focus should be on a collaborative, transparent, and data-driven approach to improve the Electoral Roll Management System, rather than on political accusations that overlook the historical context of the problem.

The absurdities in our electoral system would be comedic if they were not so damaging to democratic integrity. Real electoral integrity requires moving beyond political theatre toward systematic reform.

- **Transparency:** Electoral rolls must be made available as searchable digital databases, not password-protected images. Citizens have a fundamental right to verify their democracy's basic infrastructure.
- **Technical modernisation:** The ERMS needs a comprehensive overhaul with built-in error detection, duplicate prevention, and regular automated audits.
- **Institutional accountability:** Officials responsible for electoral roll quality should face consequences for failures, not receive awards. The current culture of impunity must end.
- **Cross-party cooperation:** All political parties must acknowledge their shared responsibility and work collaboratively rather than exploiting systemic failures for partisan advantage.
- **Citizen engagement:** Voters need accessible tools to verify their registration details and report discrepancies without bureaucratic obstacles.

Rahul Gandhi's allegation may generate headlines, but it is a distraction from the real crisis. India's electoral rolls have not been tampered with recently—they have been fundamentally compromised for years, with the complicity of all major political stakeholders.

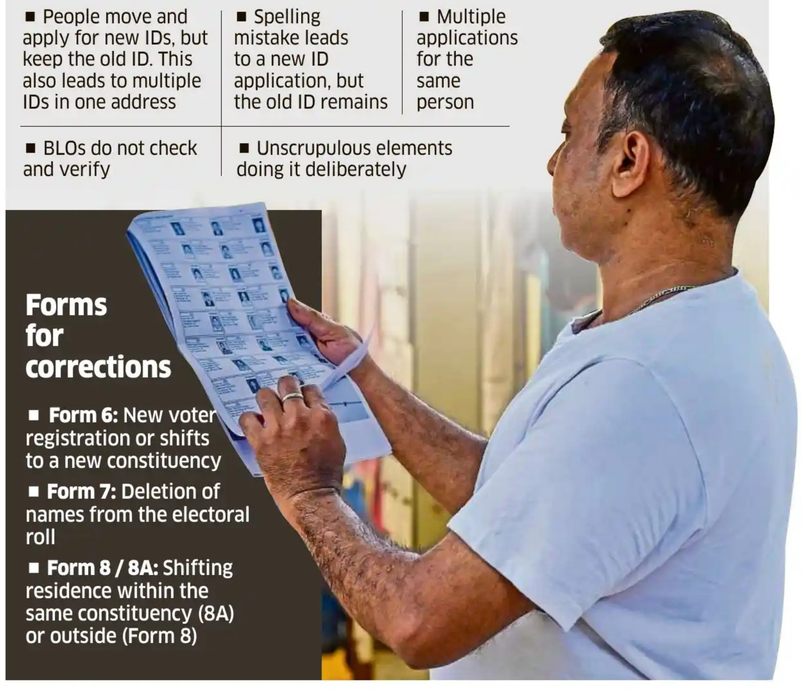
The solution is not political accusations but sustained commitment to institutional reform. Unless the government officials and politicians value intellectual integrity and humility, it is impossible to fix the voter list.

(The author has been documenting electoral roll quality issues for over 15 years.)

Feedback:
pointblank@deccanherald.co.in

WHY ARE NAMES DUPLICATED?

- People move and apply for new IDs, but keep the old ID. This also leads to multiple IDs in one address
- Spelling mistake leads to a new ID application, but the old ID remains
- Multiple applications for the same person
- BLOs do not check and verify
- Unscrupulous elements doing it deliberately



Forms for corrections

- **Form 6:** New voter registration or shifts to a new constituency
- **Form 7:** Deletion of names from the electoral roll
- **Form 8 / 8A:** Shifting residence within the same constituency (8A) or outside (Form 8)

House number 35 in Munireddy Garden, Mahadevapura had 80 voters. DH PHOTO/ RANJU P

Issue	Fix Procedure
Name missing from the voter roll	Form 6 + proof, or objection during draft roll publication
Duplicate entries	**Apply via NVSP, deletion of older entries**
Wrong name/ address/details	Correction request or re-enrol + delete the old one
Unauthorized inclusion	**Use Form 7 to object**

METRO

Power supply disruption tomorrow

BENGALURU, DHNS: Power supply will be disrupted in the following areas of the city between 10 am and 5 pm on Sunday due to works taken up by the Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited (KPTCL):

Gruhalakshmi Apartment, SM Road, Jalahalli Cross, Chokksandra, Maruthi Layout, Kempaya Layout, GG Palya, ISRO, Narayanapura, NTTF Circle, Ganapathinagar Main Road, Police Station Road, Chamundipura, Rajeswarinagar, Friends Circle, Vignana Public School Road, Bhyraveshvara Nagara, Bank Colony, Muneshwara Layout, Vaishnavi Nakashthra Apartment, Lt Karle, Muneshwara Nagar, 1st Block Peenya, Hanuman Factory, RTO Track Road, H M T Road and the surrounding areas.

Yellow Line commuters unaware of feeder buses

Residents seek better frequency of buses, well-planned routes

ASRA MAVAD & SHRADDHA S
BENGALURU, DHNS

Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy, Bengaluru South MLA M Krishnappa and BMTC Managing Director R Ramachandran flag off metro feeder buses. DH FILE PHOTO

Metro feeder buses were launched along the newly inaugurated Yellow Line on August 12. But the mode of transport is yet to pick up among the metro users.

When *DH* reporters visited the Yellow line, the services were yet to gain visibility, with many commuters unaware of their existence or unfamiliar with routes.

Currently, BMTC has deployed 12 buses on four routes and will operate 96 trips per day.

On average, each 12-metre feeder bus saw fewer than 10 passengers. Commuters mostly using the feeder buses included IT employees, students and regular commuters familiar with bus routes in the vicinity of the Yellow Line, which operates between RV Road and Bommasandra.

Ananya, an IT employee who used a feeder bus for the first time on Thursday, said: "I just happened to see the bus stop near my office, while I was booking an auto to the metro station and thought I'd give it a try. I'm unaware of the bus timings, but if I see it near my office again, I will opt for it."

Another commuter, also an IT employee, ended up on the metro feeder as he had missed his regular bus.

"I usually take G3, which also goes to Electronics City metro station. Since fares for both buses are same, I will be getting on to whichever is available first," he added.

While a few passengers hailed the buses as an economical transport option, many commuters either preferred autos over buses or were unaware of the metro feeder routes.

Heavy traffic on the route makes it difficult for buses to stop at the stations.

The buses cover six newly opened metro stations: Hosa Road, Beratena Agrahara, Electronics City, Konappana Agrahara, Hebbagodi and Bommasandra. Passengers can scan QR codes at metro bus stations and inside trains for bus schedules, live tracking and other related information.

However, residents of localities surrounding the Yellow Line believe the frequency and routes of the feeder buses aren't up to the mark.

Residents demand more feeder buses from Bellandur, HSR Layout, BTM Layout, Begur and adjacent areas.

"In Bellandur, among sub-arterial roads, three areas that lack BMTC connectivity are Haralur, Kasavanahalli and Doddakannelli. Forget metro feeders, we don't even have normal buses, which is why you see most people opting for four-wheelers.

Among the newly added metro feeders, one route covers Kasavanahalli and Doddakannelli, but leaves out Haralur. If more buses are added on this route, it will not only help metro connectivity, but also link Bellandur and Hosur Road," said Vishnu Prasad, a Bellandur resident.

More feeders in the works, says BMTC

The BMTC is conducting surveys to understand where the buses are most required and what frequency works best, a senior official said.

"As the metro frequency gets better, we will add more feeder buses. Our team is visiting areas where there is growing demand for this service, like Haralur, for example, to figure out the most efficient route," the official told *DH*.

Bescom sets up EV battery-swapping station, 20 more on way

BENGALURU, DHNS

In a bid to improve electric vehicle infrastructure in Bengaluru, Bescom on Friday opened battery-swapping station at its office at KR Circle.

Dr N Shivashankar, Managing Director, Bescom, said that discharged batteries in EVs could be swapped for fully charged ones within two minutes, offering a significant convenience for EV users.

"The launch of this battery-swapping centre is a significant milestone in delivering fast, reliable and accessible EV services to users in Bengaluru. The facility has been set up in partnership with IndoFast Energy, which currently operates over 250 battery swapping centres," he stated.

He added that the Bescom is planning to establish battery-swapping centres at 20 locations across Bengaluru.

"Currently, Karnataka has 5,871 EV charging stations, of which 4,503 are in Bengaluru Urban district. This year alone, 140 new chargers have been installed at 50 additional locations," he said.

Meat sale ban today

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has announced a ban on the sale of meat on Saturday on the occasion of Krishna Janmashtami.

The civic body has also ordered the closure of all slaughterhouses for the day.

The order was issued by the BBMP's Animal Husbandry department, which imposes such restrictions during major festivals.

For the Stay
®
Stay

Boy injured in leopard attack during safari at Bannerghatta

BENGALURU/BIDAR, DHNS: A 12-year-old boy was injured after a leopard allegedly attacked him during a safari inside the Bannerghatta National Park on Friday, officials said.

The leopard climbed onto a non-AC bus safari and clawed at the boy's hand, which was within its reach.

The park authorities administered first aid and are checking if he sustained any other injuries. They said precautions had been taken to properly cover all mesh openings, including camera slots, and drivers of non-AC safari buses had been given strict safety instructions.

Speaking in his home district of Bidar, Forest Minister Eshwar B Khandre said all necessary safety measures must be taken during safaris.

SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY
Follow us on X @SCRailwayindia
Details of the Tender Notices of S.C Railway can be seen on our website: www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

Tender Notice No.33/2025. Dt.14.08.2025.

PUB/0985

Supply Of Stores Items. E-Procurement Tender Notice:- The Following Tenders Have Been Floated Online. Tenders Are Requested To Visit The Website www.Ireps.Gov.In And Submit Their Offers Online. The Tender Description, Qty, EMD, SD May Be Seen In Website. Offers Submitted Manually Will Not Be Accepted. Offers By Post Will Not Be Entertained. Tender Closing Time Is 14.30 Hrs Of The Due Date Of The Tender. "For All Indigenous Offers, EMD Will Be Accepted Only Via Online System as Available On **www.Ireps.Gov.In.**"

Tender No.	Brief Description
52255010A	IP Based Video Surveillance system for Electric locos
52255011	IP Based Video Surveillance system for Diesel locomotives
38251020	Flap Door for BOXNHL Wagons
LH256475	Set of TPU rings
LH256476	Set of TPU rings
LH255610B	Computerised servo hydraulic rubber bush
LH256477	Set of TPU rings
31.25.2183	Installation Lever Assembly with Ball and socket ends
52245035A	Railway related equipment for train operations
54255012	Automatic Ticket vending Machines
29251412	Primary Axle Damper
6025PT027	Single piece spring inserted reusable seize nut for sizes M-27 and M-25
29251413A	Secondary vertical damper
56.25.5235	SMPS based integrated power supply system
67245019	Design, Manufacturing, supply & Installation commissioning and proveout 15/05T
82250237A	HQ Med GTE ZRC supply of (PH.No.25160) OSIMERTINIB 80mg Tab/cap
82250369	HQ Med GTE ZRC supply of (PH.No.65214) IBRUTINIB 140mg cap
30253628	Non-Asbestos Based 'K' Type High friction composite brake block
60256978	Procurement of Joggled Fish Plate T-5849
67255007	Supply installation & commissioning of 30/10 tones capacity EOT Crane
67245006D	Design, Manufacturing, supply & Installation commissioning and proveout 15/05T
60256836	Procurement of ERC-J Drg T-8258

Note: Due dates of Tender Opening SL.No.01&02on dt.25.08.2025.SL.No. 03 on dt.28.08.2025. SL.No. 04 on dt. 01.09.2025. SL.No.05 & 06 on dt.02.09.2025.SL No.07to09 on dt 03.09.2025. SL No.10&11 on dt 04.09.2025 SL No.12 on dt 08.09.2025 SL.NO.13 on 09.09.2025 SL.NO. 14to17 10.09.2025 Sl.No.18 to21 on 15.09.2025 SL.No.22 on dt.16.9.2025.

Beside Above Mentioned Tenders There Are Other Tenders Having **Value Above Rs. 50 Lakhs** for details Please Visit Railway Website Above.

Principal Chief Materials Manager /SCR/ Secunderabad.
A1219

For further tender conditions / details and for downloading the tender documents, Please visit website at https://www.ireps.gov.in or www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

Working class area wakes up to deafening blast; 17 houses damaged

A pall of gloom and a trail of destruction

A top view of the houses damaged in a suspected LPG cylinder explosion in Chinnayanapalya, near Wilson Garden, Bengaluru, on Friday. DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

AMULLYA SHIVASHANKAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

Friday's suspected gas cylinder blast in Chinnayanapalya, a working-class neighbourhood near Wilson Garden, shook the area residents as it damaged 17 homes.

Several houses with asbestos sheet roofs were completely damaged, and their broken pieces injured at least two people. Glass shards from the windows were strewn all over the place.

Ataullah, whose 10-year-old nephew Mubarak died in the explosion, said that the wall collapsed on the boy's leg and he bleeded from the ears due to the loud sound.

The boy was rushed to Jayanagar Government Hospital and succumbed to injuries there. The boy's sister Zoya Fathima is also serious, Ataullah told *DH*.

The post-mortem of Mubarak was held at St John's Medical College Hospital.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has announced a compensation Rs 5 lakh to Mubarak's family.

Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy, who is also the local MLA, promised that the government would carry out all repairs and pay all hospital bills.

One of the neighbours said: "They were good kids. They are three siblings and attend the Chinnapalya government school. It is sad to see kids who grew up in front of us die in such an unfortunate incident."

Aiyappa, a daily wage worker, his wife Kasthuri and their daughter Khayal have in the house where the blast occurred for six years, now.

While Aiyappa left home early on Friday, Kasthuri and Khayal were at home when the explosion tore through the house.

Kasthuri sustained 36% burns with an inhalational component, while her daughter suffered 31% burns with a head injury, according to doctors at the burns unit of Victoria Hospital, where both are being treated.

Johnson, another neighbour, said: "The family ran out of LPG cylinder two days ago. Kasthuri brought a cylinder in the black market on Thursday night and connected it. The blast occurred when she turned on the stove this morning. It was gut-wrenching to see the child get burnt so much."

Naveen, who runs a decor management store in the locality, said: "The wall and sheet of our small godown have collapsed and damaged items worth about Rs 70,000. We had new items for the upcoming Ganesha festival. Everything has gone to waste now."

A paanipuri vendor from UP who has been residing in the area for three years said: "Our puris have been crushed and other items damaged. The asbestos sheet fell on my head and cut through my eyebrows," he said, pointing towards his injury.

Personnel from State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF), Fire and Emergency Services and other experts at the site where one person died and nine injured in a suspected LPG cylinder explosion at Chinnayanapalya near Wilson Garden in Bengaluru on Friday. DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah visits the explosion site. Minister Ramalinga Reddy is also seen.

Families will be evacuated: BBMP chief

BBMP Chief Commissioner M Maheshwar Rao was among the officials who visited the spot.

He said people whose houses were damaged would be shifted to Jain Bhavan (VV Puram) for the time being. He also promised to make the necessary arrangements if the affected families wished to stay closer.

"BBMP verifications will be done and the necessary repairs and actions will be taken," he said.

Poor ranking: Govt strips BSWML of garbage collection

BBMP zonal commissioners accountable for task

In Swachh Survekshan 2025, Bengaluru was ranked the fifth dirtiest among cities with a population of one million and more. DH PHOTO

NAVEEN MENEZES
BENGALURU, DHNS

Stung by Bengaluru's poor showing in Swachh Survekshan 2025 (cleanliness survey), the state government has decided to take back the responsibility of collecting household and commercial waste from Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Ltd (BSWML).

The task will now be handled directly by the BBMP's zonal commissioners before eventually shifting to the five soon-to-be-formed city corporations.

The major shake-up comes just three years after the government had formed BSWML to exclusively and professionally handle the city's solid waste management system that was controlled by the "garbage mafia." Going forward, BSWML will solely focus on processing and disposal of waste, which includes managing waste processing plants and landfill sites.

These decisions were taken at a recent review meeting chaired by Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar and attended by Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh. The meeting took note of Bengaluru's dismal performance in the cleanliness survey, which they said caused a major embarrassment to the government.

Under the new arrangement, zonal commissioners will be accountable for primary collection and transportation of waste, meaning supervision of auto tippers, compactors in particular and cleanliness of the zone in general. They will be assisted by deputy general managers (zones) and assistant general managers (divisions). Ironically, both posts fall under BSWML and may lead to confusion.

Some of the responsibilities assigned to the zonal commissioners include: improving source segregation, reviewing the solid waste master plan to identify missing infrastructure or manpower in areas where the population has gone up, imposing penalties on citizens who fail to hand over waste to collection vehicles among others.

As per the latest figures, Bengaluru generates around 3,025 tonnes of wet waste daily. Of this, 2,180 tonnes are processed, while the remaining 850 tonnes end up in landfill sites.

The city also produces 1,925 tonnes of dry waste daily, but only 1,200 tonnes are processed, with 725 tonnes mixing with wet waste before being dumped.

To address the gaps, the meeting proposed setting up new wet waste-processing plants, particularly in wards that generate large amounts of waste. Instructions have also been given to establish a dry waste collection centre or material recovery facility in every ward by partnering with ragpickers for maintenance.

BBMP Commissioner M Maheshwar Rao said that the changes were meant to "make zonal commissioners accountable" for solid waste management until the new corporations are in place.

IN THE COURT OF THE XVII ADDL. CITY CIVIL AND SESSIONS JUDGE AT BENGALURU (CCH-16)
in
G AND WC No. 15/2025

Between : 1. Smt. Divya Sangeeth, W/o Late Sangeeth Thangavel, Aged about 31 years, **Sri. Dhanvith Sangeeth,** S/o Late Sangeeth Thangavel, Aged about 9 years. (Since Minor Represented by his mother Smt. Divya Sangeeth), **Kum. Naksha Sangeeth,** D/o Late Sangeeth Thangavel, Aged about 3 years, (Since Minor Represented by her mother Smt. Divya Sangeeth), All Residing at No. 357/A, Dr. Rajagopal Main Road, HP Mathru Gas Gowdan, RMV 2nd Stage, Nagashettyhalli, Bangalore-560094. **...PETITIONERS**
AND : NILL ...RESPONDENTS

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas, the above named have filed this petition to this Hon'ble Court under Section 8(2) of The Hindu Minority And Guardianship Act, 1956 R/W Section 29 of The Guardians And Wards Act 1890, to appoint the Petitioner No. 1 as the legal guardian of her minor children, namely Sri. Dhanvith Sangeeth and Kum. Naksha Sangeeth, for the purpose of alienating their undivided shares in the Petition Schedule 'B' Property mentioned below.

The below mentioned schedule 'B' property was purchased by the Petitioner's husband Sri. Sangeeth Thangavel who expired on 09.05.2023.

Interested parties are hereby called to appear in this Court in person or by pleader duly instructed **on 28.08.2025 at 11.00 AM,** inform to show cause against the petitioner failing, wherein the appearance will be heard and declared as ex-parte.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

SCHEDULE 'A' : All that piece and parcel of the Immovable property bearing Sy.No. 16/2, BBMP Khatha No. 1487/16/2, measuring to an extent of 0-26 Guntas (28,314 Square Feet) out of 1 Acre 09 Guntas, situated at KODICHIKKANAHALLI VILLAGE, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, duly converted from agricultural to non-agricultural residential purposes vide order bearing No. ALN(SB)(BH)SR:79/2010-11 dated 18/05/2011 issued by the Special Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District, Bangalore, and bounded on: East by: Nala & Road, West by: Property belonging to Sri. Yellappa in Sy.No. 16/2, North by: Private Property, South by: Remaining property in Sy.No. 16/2 and Road.

SCHEDULE 'B' : 325 Sq.ft of Undivided share, right, title and interest in the land comprising in Schedule 'A' Property mentioned above together with Two Bedrooms Apartment bearing No. 007 in the Ground Floor measuring 1120 Sq.ft of Super Built up Area with Vitrified Tiles Flooring, with One Car Parking Slot be the part of multistoried residential complex known as "SUMUKHA PRIDE" constructed at Schedule 'A' Property along with one half part, in depth of the joints between the ceiling of the apartments and the floor of the space above it and internal and external walls such level as with concealed wiring with proportionate share in common access and areas of the building like entrance foyer, common corridors in all floors, staircases including landing up to the terrace, machine room, housing and lift machineries of passenger elevator along with necessary cabin, winches and motor etc., pump sets, houses in pump room along with necessary valves, starters etc., and common areas electrical systems.

The walls are built of solid blocks, RCC famed structure with RCC roofing and mortar Aluminium windows with steel bright grill and frames teak wood and sal wood frames and doors, vitrified tiles flooring, separate electricity, common water and sanitation including common area rights.

Given under my hand and seal of the Hon'ble Court on this 30th day of July 2025.

By order of the Court, Senior Sheristedar, City Civil Court, Bengaluru.

Advocate for Petitioners : **Aditya S.K,** KAR/5840/2022, No. 753, Shishira, 3rd Block, 3rd Phase, Water Tank, BSK 3rd Stage, Bengaluru-560085.

1.8 lakh people visit Lalbagh flower show on I-Day

BENGALURU, DHNS

The 218th edition of Lalbagh's Flower Show, themed on freedom fighters Rani Chennamma and Sangolli Rayanna, recorded its highest footfall of the season on Independence Day.

The show drew 1,79,090 visitors on Friday, comprising 1,45,720 adults, 13,720 children and 19,650 schoolchildren.

The ticket sales brought in Rs 85 lakh. Since August 7, the show has welcomed nearly 4 lakh visitors, with organisers expecting to surpass that figure over the long weekend.

This is the first time in two years that the event has witnessed such numbers, second only to the 2023 Independence Day flower show held in memory of late CM Kengal Hanumanthaiah, which saw four lakh visitors in a single day.

M Jagadeesh, Joint Director of Horticulture at Lalbagh, attributed Friday's turnout to the Independence Day holiday, noting that numbers could have crossed the 4 lakh mark if not for two rain spells during show hours.

"Despite the heavy crowd, we've maintained cleanliness and upheld eco-friendly, plastic-free standards, thanks to our staff and volunteers," he told *DH*, crediting the extra workforce deployed for the event.

The flower show will go on until August 18.

Ticket prices are Rs 80 on weekdays and Rs 100 on weekends for adults, Rs 30 for students above 12, and free entry for uniformed school students on working days. The timings are 7 am to 7 pm.

M Jagadeesh, Joint Director of Horticulture at Lalbagh, attributed Friday's turnout to the Independence Day holiday, noting that numbers could have crossed the 4 lakh mark if not for two rain spells during show hours. DH PHOTO

BWSSB to replace 40-yr-old pipelines to bring down water leakages

SNEHA RAMESH
BENGALURU, DHNS

Nearly 200 km of water pipelines, laid nearly 40 years ago, will finally be replaced as the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) has begun a new project to reduce leakages.

The project is a part of the BWSSB's plan to bring down Unaccounted for Water (UfW) to below 10%.

At present, UfW is close to 28%, meaning that the city loses 28% of its water supplies to leakages and theft.

The BWSSB has cut down over 40,000 illegal connections and is identifying many more to cut down the losses. However, officials said, to bring down the UfW levels further, it is important to identify leakages. Replacement of pipelines is hence crucial. The project is taken up at a cost of Rs 200 crore.

"Many of these cast-iron pipelines were laid nearly 40 years ago. Owing to this, leakages are bound to happen. Hence, to bring down the UfW, we have taken up this project to completely replace the pipelines in phases," explained Dr Ramprasat Manohar V, chairman, BWSSB.

Most of these projects are being taken up in the core areas of the city where the pipelines are old. Areas where pipeline replacement is planned include Shivajinagar, Byatarayanapura, CV Raman Nagar and Chamarajpet.

In 2018-19, the BWSSB had taken up a similar project where nearly 680 km of pipelines were replaced. The project's success prompted the officials to take up more such works.

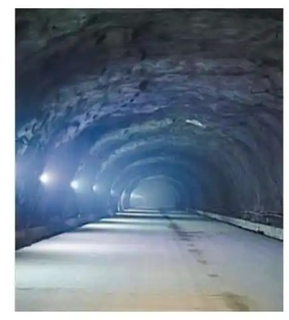
However, even after completion of the planned 200 km, nearly 3,000 km of old pipelines will remain and the BWSSB plans to take them up in phases.

"We could recover our investment within three years because we could prevent leakages and save water. Hence, based on the availability of funds, we took up the next phase," Manohar added.

Given the poor state of roads in the city and the ongoing monsoon, citizens urged the BWSSB to ensure that commuters are not inconvenienced.

"We understand that they need to take up work, but if they dig up the roads now, road users will be inconvenienced and roads will become risky. I hope they have planned the project to ensure commuters are not put at risk," said Suhas R, a techie.

Road-cutting for fixing leaking water pipelines has become common in Bengaluru. The picture is from New BEL Road. DH FILE/JANARDHAN B K



City's first major protest against proposed tunnel road today

BENGALURU, DHNS: The first major protest against the proposed tunnel road project and the Greater Bengaluru Governance Act (GBGA) will take place this Saturday at Freedom Park, with citizen groups describing the recent decisions of the government as "harmful."

A large number of citizens are expected to turn up at the protest.

Organised by Bengaluru Townhall, a citizens collective, the #SaveBengaluru protest will be held from 10 am to 1 pm.

The protest is to mark opposition for tunnel roads, the GBG Act, which is splitting the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) into five corporations, as well as the recent amendments to the buffer zones of lakes and stormwater drains.

Instead, the organisers are demanding the expansion of public transport systems, sustainable development, green spaces and the governance under the 74th Constitutional Amendment.

"Bengaluru is bleeding. Our trees are being felled. Our lakes are dying. Our roads are choking. Illegal buildings everywhere. Infrastructure crumbling. As our city gasps for life, politicians and real estate mafia are more obsessed with squeezing the last drop of blood? Our city is becoming unlivable," the organisers said in a statement.

RECRUITMENT & ASSESSMENT CENTRE (RAC), DRDO
Lucknow Road, Timarpur, Delhi- 110054

ADVERTISEMENT NO.156: NOTICE / ADDENDUM POST INDUCTION TRAINING FOR SELECTED CANDIDATES

Reference DRDO advt. no.156 and its addendum published in the Employment News dated 14th June 2025 and 28th June 2025, for recruitment to 155 posts of Scientist 'B' (DRDO-127, ADA-09, Encadred Posts of Scientist 'B'-16, DST-03)
In continution to the above mentioned, advertisement, the following is informed:

1. The selected candidates for DRDO will undergo Post-Induction Training at DIAT, Pune for a period of two years. On successful completion, the candidates will be offered M.TEch degree in Defence Technologies and the said period will counted as probation. The candidates who are already having higher qualification ie. M.Tech/ Ph.D will undergo a six months post induction training at DIAT, Pune. Thereafter the selected scientists will proceed further to resume duties in labs/estts. as per provision in vogue.

2. The said Post-Induction Training is for candidates selected for DRDO only.

CBC 10301/11/0084/2526

STATE BANK OF INDIA
CHOKKAHALLI INDUSTRIAL AREA GATE, CHINTAMANI ROAD, HOSAKOTE TALUK, BANGALORE RURAL, E-MAIL: sbi.40733@sbi.co.in

POSSESSION NOTICE Under Rule 8 (1) (For immovable property)

A/c. No. 64066935249

WHEREAS, The undersigned being the authorized officer of the State Bank of India, under the securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (2) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a **Demand Notice dated 05.06.2025** calling upon the borrower **Smt Manjula W/o Late Shri Ganeshachari & Legal Heirs of Late Shri Ganeshachari,** to repay the amount mentioned in the notice bearing of **Rs.7,41,043/- (Rupees Seven Lakhs Forty One Thousand Forty Three only) as on 05.06.2025.** You are also liable to pay future interest **from.06.06.2025** at the contractual rate on the aforesaid amount together with incidental expense, cost, charges, etc.

The Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower/guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under section 13 (4)of the said Act Read with Rule 8 of the security Interest (Enforcement)Rules, 2002 on the day 05.08.2025.

The Borrowers and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of State Bank of India, for an amount of **Rs.7,41,043/- (Rupees Seven Lakhs Forty One Thousand Forty Three only)as on 05.06.2025 and interest from 05.06.2025 & Expense thereon.**

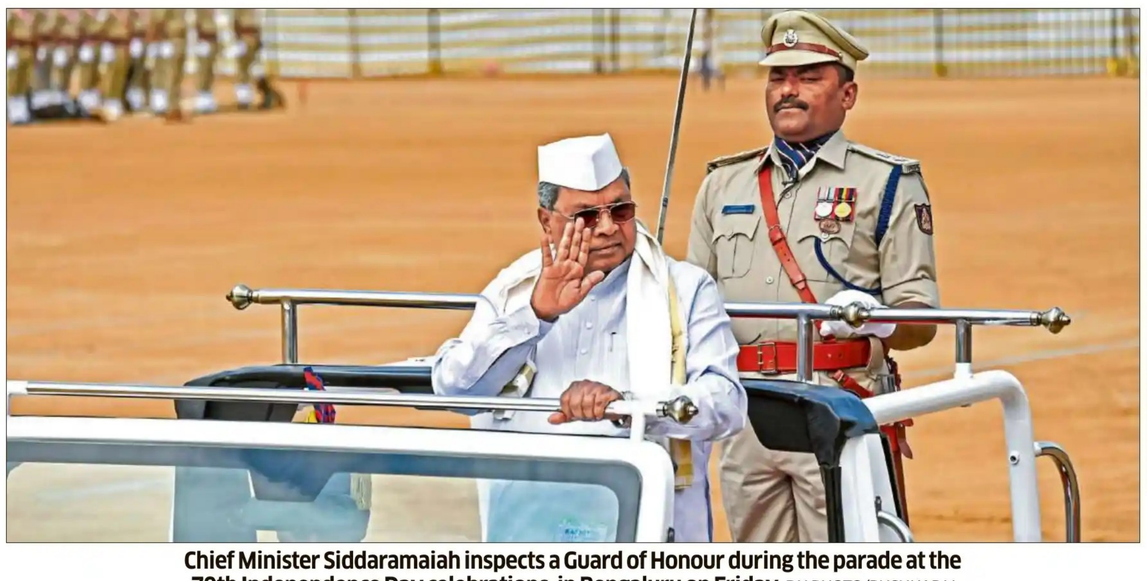
The borrower's attention is invited to provision of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

SCHEDULE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the Property bearing Old Janjar No, 39, New Janjar No 128, Property No 33/1,33/2 Old site No 45, New Site No 45/1 measuring **East to West 20 ft, North to South 40 ft,** and Old Janjar NO 39, New Janjar No 128, property No 39, Old Site No 43, New site No 43/1 situated at Chollappnahalli Village, Doddahullur Grama Panchayat, Hoskote Taluk, Bangalore Rural District. Measuring **East to West 10 ft, North to South 40 ft** both sites are adjacent sites totally measuring **East to West 30 Ft and North to South 40 ft** and bounded on the : **East by :** Remaining site no 43 belongs to M Reddappa, **West by :** Remaining site no 45 belongs to Sarojamma **North by** : Road, **South by :** Site No 44 and 46.

Place : CHOKKAHALLI
Date : 14.08.2025

Sd/-Authorized officer & Chief Manager, State Bank of India, Chokkahalli Branch, Hosakote Taluk.



Chief Minister Siddaramaiah inspects a Guard of Honour during the parade at the 79th Independence Day celebrations, in Bengaluru on Friday. DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

Students present a show on the five guarantee schemes of the state government, at the 79th Independence Day celebrations at Field Marshal Manekshaw Parade Ground in Bengaluru, on Friday. DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

'Karnataka No 1 in per capita income': CM lauds state policies in I-Day speech

Siddaramaiah outlines vision for social justice & prosperity

BENGALURU, DHNS

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said on Friday Karnataka ranks first in per capita income as the state achieved a growth of 101% — from Rs 1,01,858 at constant prices in 2013-14 to Rs 2,04,605 in 2024–25.

In addition, Karnataka ranked second in foreign investments in 2024–25, attracting Rs 56,030 crore.

In his speech on the 79th Independence Day, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah spoke about the "Karnataka model of development," highlighting the state's success in balancing robust economic growth with inclusive social schemes, a model he said has received global recognition from figures like the UN General Assembly President, Philemon Yang.

The 35-minute speech mentioned his administration's commitment to social democracy and welfare.

A central theme of the CM's speech was the government's five flagship guarantee schemes: Anna Bhagya, Shakti, Gruha Lakshmi, Gruha Jyothi, and Yuva Nidhi. He presented an economic argument for their necessity, citing national surveys which reveal that the wealthiest 10% of the population contribute only 3% of the GST, while the remaining 90% bear the burden of 97%. This inequality, he asserted, is what the guarantee schemes are designed to address, aligning with the constitutional spirit of social democracy.

Siddaramaiah provided statistics to back his claims, stating that the government has allocated over Rs 96,000 crore for the schemes.

He noted the Shakti scheme has recorded 500 crore free trips by women on government buses, and credited the schemes with a 23% increase in women's workforce participation.

He also lauded the Transport Department's induction of 5,049 new buses and the recruitment of 8,473 personnel to enhance public transport capacity.

The chief minister highlighted a total of Rs 1.12 lakh crore being spent on welfare measures, including scholarships, pensions, and subsidies, demonstrating a firm commitment to the welfare state. He said the Yettinahole drinking water project would be completed by 2027 and flagged "urea shortages from the Centre".

He said the state was developing 18 Special Investment Regions and aimed to open 500 Karnataka Public Schools this year. The state's maternal mortality rate has fallen 26%, he added.

BSF personnel march past at the Independence Day parade.

Tackling mobile addiction

Siddaramaiah highlighted the growing societal challenge of mobile phone and internet addiction. He expressed concern that younger generations are experiencing "deep distress resulting in depression, anxiety, sudden anger and hatred" due to this issue.

To combat this, he announced the launch of two key government initiatives: the 'Mobile Bidi - Pustaka Hidi' (Put Down Your Phone - Pick Up a Book) campaign and 'Odu Karnataka' (Read Karnataka). These campaigns aim to encourage citizens, particularly the youth, to disconnect from their digital devices and re-engage with the world of books and offline activities.

Push for social justice

Drawing on the wisdom of B R Ambedkar, the chief minister contrasted his government's philosophy of "Samvidhanvad," prioritising the weakest with what he called the ideology of "Manuvad," which he likened to Social Darwinism. He reiterated the government's commitment to conducting a socio-educational survey of backward classes and implementing internal reservation within the Scheduled Castes.

Tensions with Centre

In urban development, Siddaramaiah mentioned projects worth over Rs 1.35 lakh crore for Bengaluru, including tunnel roads and new metro lines. He also announced the decision to grant 'A' Khatas to eligible property owners to resolve the long-pending 'B' Khata issue. The state's pioneering wastewater reuse model, he noted, has received national and international acclaim. He criticised the union Government, alleging "discrimination in the distribution of resources" and raising concerns about the functioning of central agencies.

I-Day celebrations: e-pass ensures hassle-free entry

BENGALURU, DHNS

Independence Day celebrations at Field Marshal Manekshaw Parade Ground on Friday featured a grand parade, cultural programmes and a successful implementation of an e-pass system to attendees for the very first time.

The event commenced with a flag hoisting ceremony and Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's address, followed by a marchpast by 35 platoons from various forces and a series of cultural performances.

Highlights included "Naada Geethe and Raitha Geethe" by Rajesh, Nirmala D A and team, and "Swaatantrya Sangramada Veera Kannadatiyaru" by 694 children from BBMP Composite College, Herohalli.

There was also a performance on the "Five Guarantee Schemes" by 450 children from PU College, Seshadripuram. The cultural showcase concluded with a performance by 253 officers and staff of the Karnataka Police Band.

A key feature of this year's event was the use of an e-pass system for entry.

Mohammed Irfan, a local resident, described the process "hassle-free," noting that the entry was granted after a simple QR code scan and identity verification via DigiLocker.

MOHAMMED IRFAN
A local resident,

"I just checked in by the gate through the e-pass PDF, which I received after a successful booking. The police verified my identity through DigiLocker, and I was in.

"I just checked in by the gate through the e-pass PDF, which I received after a successful booking. The police verified my identity through DigiLocker, and I was in," he said.

Vinay S said it was his first time witnessing the celebrations live. "I used to watch it on television, but seeing it for real was a different experience. It was really patriotic, and I got goosebumps.

Niranjan S Nayak suggested that authorities should have announced the deadline extension earlier.

"I managed to get the pass, but many of my friends didn't due to the short notice," he said.

Karnataka Police Band performs during the Independence Day parade at Field Marshal Manekshaw Parade Ground in Bengaluru on Friday. DH PHOTO/PRASHANTH H G

993 unauthorised pvt schools in Karnataka, Council told

A majority of them are located in Bengaluru North and South districts.

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Department of School Education and Literacy has identified 993 unauthorised private schools in Karnataka during 2024-25 academic year and a majority of them are located in Bengaluru North and South districts.

In an official reply to the query by BJP MLC D S Arun in the Legislative Council, School Education and Literacy Minister Madhu Bangarappa revealed that many of the unauthorised schools were following other board curriculum despite getting permission to run the school in state board.

At least 101 schools affiliated to the state board were found using other board textbooks and 89 were following other board curriculum. "To avoid parents and children from getting cheated by such schools, we have instructed Block Education Officers to publish the list of unauthorised schools on the public platform," Madhu stated in the written reply.

Of the 993 unauthorised schools, 172 were identified in Bengaluru South and 141 in Bengaluru North. Followed by 120 such schools in Ramanagara and 101 in Raichur districts.

Most of them failed to get the recent Renewal of Recognition from the department.

Meanwhile, the department has also directed the officials concerned at the district level to make sure such unauthorised schools are closed. In case any such school is found functioning, officials have been asked to file a police complaint against the management and take measures to close the institution with the help from the police.

Data shared by the department revealed that at least 21 schools were functioning without the approval or affiliation. Of the 21 schools, five were in Bengaluru South, four each in Bidar and Belagavi districts

There were instances in the past where students enrolled in unauthorised schools were left in the lurch during SSLC board exams. And in many cases considering the interest of students, the government allowed those children to register for exams from other schools.

Schools in soup

Not Registered	27
Upgraded illegally	21
Teaching other Boards	101
Registration not renewed	364

MADHU BANGARAPPA
School Education and Literacy Minister

"To avoid parents and children from getting cheated by such schools, we have instructed Block Education Officers to publish the list of unauthorised schools on the public platform.

Remind people about Cong's sacrifices for freedom: DKS

BENGALURU, DHNS

Recounting the sacrifice of the more than 6.5 lakh Congressmen who laid down their life to secure Independence for India, Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) president and Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Friday exhorted the cadre of his party to write the foreword to the 'second freedom struggle' in 2029.

Shivakumar, participating in the 79th Independence Day celebrations at the KPCC office in Bengaluru, urged the party cadre to make both the current and future generations aware of the sacrifices of the Congress party. "Otherwise, traitors will keep preaching us about patriotism. It's the Congress that fought for Independence but they are trying to defame our leaders," the KPCC chief said.

Shivakumar

"We need to take a five-point oath today -- saving democracy, the Constitution, the sanctity of elections, fighting the injustice of tax devolution and to eliminate fascism. We need to remember these five oaths every day and write the foreword to the second independence struggle in 2029," he added.

'Vote theft' is detrimental to the interests of a democracy since it puts the whole electoral process in jeopardy, said the KPCC. "Our leaders Rahul Gandhi and Mallikarjun Kharge launched a nationwide campaign to fight against vote theft from Karnataka," said Shivakumar. Interacting with journalists later, he expressed delight at parties opposed to the BJP coming together. The Deputy CM even hinted at a 'massive change' in the days to come.

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL

Horticulture Department: Independence Day Flower Show Prize Distribution Ceremony; Dr MH Marigowda Memorial Hall, Lalbagh; 2.30 pm.

Atal Birth Centenary Celebration Committee, BJP: Launch of a commemorative volume on Atal Bihari Vajpayee; Town Hall; 4.30 pm.

Rotary Bangalore Kanakapura Road, District 3191: 'A Wellness Night – Beyond the Beats' programme to support a school for blind girls; The Krishna Grand, Banashankari 2nd Stage; 5:30 pm.

CULTURAL

Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan and RV University: Launch of 'Chase By Panchatantra Forum'; Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Race Course Road; 10 am.

Creative Theatre: Presentation of 'Kaaya' play; Shoonya Centre for Art and Somatic Practices; Lalbagh Road; 7.30 pm.

Azim Premji University: 'Kumaravyasa Bharata' Gamaka recital; Indian Institute of World Culture, BP Wadia Road, Basavanagudi; 6 pm.

RELIGIOUS

Geetamandira Trust: Dasavani by Anand Deshpande on the occasion of Sri Krishna Janmashtami; Srirampura, 10.30 am. onwards.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸಹಕಾರ ಗ್ರಾಹಕರ ಮಹಾಮಂಡಳ ನಿಯಮಿತ
ನಂ.4, ಪಂಪಮಹಾಕವಿ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಚಾಮರಾಜಪೇಟೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು – 560 018

ಕ್ರಮ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಕರಾಸಗ್ರಾಮ/ಆಡಳಿತ/ನೇಮಿ/01/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 14/08/2025

ನೇಮಕಾತಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸಹಕಾರ ಗ್ರಾಹಕರ ಮಹಾಮಂಡಳ (ನಿ), ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಈ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಖಾಲಿ ಇರುವ ವಿವಿಧ ವೃಂದದ ಒಟ್ಟು 34 ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳ ನೇರ ನೇಮಕಾತಿಗಾಗಿ ಅರ್ಹ ಅಭ್ಯರ್ಥಿಗಳಿಂದ ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಅರ್ಹ ಅಭ್ಯರ್ಥಿಗಳು ಆನ್‌ಲೈನ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರವೇ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸತಕ್ಕದ್ದು ಹಾಗೂ ನಿಗದಿತ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಶುಲ್ಕವನ್ನು ಆನ್‌ಲೈನ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರವೇ ಪಾವತಿಸತಕ್ಕದ್ದು. ಖುದ್ದಾಗಿ/ಅಂಚೆ/ಕೋರಿಯರ್ ಇತ್ಯಾದಿಗಳ ಮೂಲಕ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಅವಕಾಶ ಇರುವುದಿಲ್ಲವೆಂದು ಈ ಮೂಲಕ ಸ್ಪಷ್ಟಪಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ನೇರ ನೇಮಕಾತಿಯ ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳ ವಿವರ ಹಾಗೂ ಮೀಸಲಾತಿ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತೆ ಇರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ.	ಹುದ್ದೆಯ ಹೆಸರು	ವೇತನ ಶ್ರೇಣಿ	ಮೀಸಲಾತಿ ವರ್ಗೀಕರಣ	ಒಟ್ಟು ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ
1.	ಫಾರ್ಮಾಸಿಸ್ಟ್	16000–29600	ರಾಜ್ಯ ಮಟ್ಟದ ಉಳಿಕೆ ವೃಂದದ ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳು	07
2.	ಪ್ರಥಮ ದರ್ಜೆ ಸಹಾಯಕರು	13600–26000	ರಾಜ್ಯ ಮಟ್ಟದ ಉಳಿಕೆ ವೃಂದದ ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳು	10
3.	ವಿಕ್ರಯ ಸಹಾಯಕರು	12500–24000	ರಾಜ್ಯ ಮಟ್ಟದ ಉಳಿಕೆ ವೃಂದದ ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳು	16
	ವಿಕ್ರಯ ಸಹಾಯಕರು	12500–24000	ರಾಜ್ಯ ಮಟ್ಟದ ಕ.ಕ. ವೃಂದದ (371ಜೆ) ಮೀಸಲಿರುವ ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳು	01

ಅರ್ಜಿ ನಮೂನೆ, ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಕೆ, ಮೀಸಲಾತಿ, ಅರ್ಜಿ ಶುಲ್ಕ, ಆಯ್ಕೆ ವಿಧಾನ, ವಯೋಮಿತಿ, ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಹತೆ, ಲಿಖಿತ ಪರೀಕ್ಷೆ ಇತ್ಯಾದಿ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು **ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸಹಕಾರ ಗ್ರಾಹಕರ ಮಹಾಮಂಡಳ (ನಿ)**, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಇದರ ಅಧಿಕೃತ ವೆಬ್ ಸೈಟ್ **https://virtualofficeerp.com/ksccf2025** ನಲ್ಲಿ ನೀಡಿರುವ ಲಿಂಕ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಪೂರ್ಣವಾಗಿ ತಿಳಿದುಕೊಂಡು ಆಸಕ್ತಿಯುಳ್ಳ ಅಭ್ಯರ್ಥಿಗಳು ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಸೂಚಿಸಿದೆ. 1) ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಪ್ರಾರಂಭ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 16/08/2025.
2) ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 14/09/2025.

ಸಹಿ/–
ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು

Tiger injured in territorial fight shifted to rehab centre

GUNDLUPET (CHAMARAJANAGAR DIST), DHNS: The Forest department personnel rescued an injured tiger on Heggawadi Road, in Kundukere range, under Bandipur Tiger Reserve, Gundlupet taluk, Chamarajanagar district, on Friday. It was shifted to the rehabilitation centre in Koorgalli, Mysuru, for treatment.

The farmers, who spotted the tiger lying in a field in a weak condition, immediately alerted the Forest personnel. Veterinarian Dr Wasim Mirza darted the tiger, which was then shifted to Koorgalli Rehabilitation Centre in Mysuru for treatment. The tiger is around 11 years old and has been injured in a territorial fight, the officials said.

However, the farmers were adamant that the injured tiger should not be shifted until the other tiger, which escaped after the territorial fight, is captured. Only after the officials assured that a combing operation would be launched immediately to rescue the elusive tiger, the farmers relented and allowed the shifting of the injured one. The operation has been started at Kunnamutti Gudda area.

Namma Bengaluru Ge Swagatha!
AN INITIATIVE BY
Craft Artisan REVIVAL LLP
Karigar Bazaar
9th – 17th AUG 2025
11:00 AM – 8:00 PM
A Unique Celebration of India's Living Craft Traditions Comes to Bengaluru for the First Time!
Over 140 master artisans from across India present a vibrant showcase of:
• Timeless textiles & weaves
• Tribal & folk art
• Handcrafted jewellery & decor
• Sustainable lifestyle products
• Artisan-made foods
• Live Craft Demonstrations & Workshops
Regional Food Court Featuring Flavours From Across India.
Enjoy music by Kabir folk artists, Manganiyaar musicians, and Bengaluru's own Desi rapper Adhyaay.
Venue
Jayamahal Palace
Bengaluru
+91 87883 49654
info@karigarbazaar.com
Instagram: @karigar_bazaar

VIT alumni receive awards at Crystal Connexions meet

VIT Chennai alumni awardees with Kamal Haasan flanked by Dr G V Selvam (left) and Dr G Viswanathan (right), and senior staff of the institute, at the Crystal Connexions Alumni Meet 2025.

The Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT), Chennai, presented the alumni excellence awards to its alumni at the Crystal Connexions Alumni Meet 2025 yesterday.

Cine star and Member of Parliament Kamal Haasan was the chief guest, while VIT's Founder-Chancellor Dr G Viswanathan presided over the function and Vice President Dr G V Selvam welcomed the gathering.

Kamal Haasan called on youngsters to face failures with courage and proceed towards success. "We rarely speak of a freedom - the freedom to fail - without which no innovation is possible, because the country that fears failure will never discover its true potential. In India, failure is often treated like a life sentence, and that fear kills more dreams than poverty," he said. Citing the example of the start-up ecosystem, he said for every 100 ideas, 90 fail in the first five years. "In Silicon Valley, that is seen as experience gained. In India, it is viewed with shame," he said.

Dr Viswanathan said he strongly believes that only higher education can make India a developed country. "All of us want India to become a developed country. It is possible only with the help of higher education and an opportunity to work," he added.

Dr Selvam said students should become entrepreneurs and provide jobs to others rather than just search for jobs. "For those who go abroad for a livelihood, I say - go, learn, earn and return to serve your country. Don't be a job seeker, be a job creator", he said.

VIT's Dr V S Kanchana Bhaaskaran, Vice Chancellor; Dr T Thyagarajan, Pro Vice Chancellor; Dr K Sathiyanarayanan, Director; Dr P K Manoharan, Additional Registrar; and Dr Manojkumar Rajagopal, President, VIT Alumni Association – Chennai Chapter also attended the event.

Curated by DH Brandspot

Poor response to domestic solar power scheme in K'taka

Less than 5% of 2.23L applications processed

The Union government provides a maximum subsidy of Rs 78,000 for installation of 3-KW solar panels. DH FILE PHOTO

PAVAN KUMAR H
HUBBALLI, DHNS:

Union government's ambitious PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana (PMSG:MBY), which aimed at installing rooftop solar panels on domestic houses, is getting lukewarm response in the state as the conversion from application to installation is not even five per cent.

According to documents available with *DH*, nearly 2.23 lakh people applied under the scheme since its launch in February 2024. However, only 10,672 applicants benefited as of July 2025.

More than 15.76 lakh households have benefited from this scheme across India so far.

Experts point out the tedious process, non-availability of domestically manufactured solar panel modules, lesser subsidy and incentive on purchase of power, and Karnataka's Gruha Jyothi scheme as reasons for the lack of interest.

On average, India requires 30 GW of solar panels per year. Last year, the country produced 25 GW of solar panels as manufacturers were allowed to use imported components. However, with the Union government making it mandatory that only domestically manufactured modules should be used, this year the country is expected to make 8 GW to 10 GW of panels, says Karnataka Renewable Energy System Manufacturers' Association Founding President Ramesh Shivanna.

The Union government provides a maximum subsidy of Rs 78,000 for installation of 3-KW solar panels. Ramesh says availability of Domestic Content Requirement (DCR) modules is difficult and costlier compared to those exported.

"A 3-KW solar panel and its allied equipment can be installed at an estimated cost of Rs 2.25 lakh. However, the subsidy provided is not even one-third of it. Descoms purchase excess power at Rs 2.46 from beneficiaries. This is too low," he says.

The beneficiaries also complained of the vendor selection process while applying online. "There is a complicated process of selecting the vendors. Though the website shows multiple options, at the time of selection it gives us only a few vendors who quote higher prices," says Ganapathi Bhat, a resident of Hubballi who left the process midway.

The fear of losing Gruhajyothi scheme benefits also detests many from applying for PMSG:MBY.

"At present, only those households which consume more than 200 units of electricity can benefit if they install a 3-KW unit. Many customers have withdrawn their application due to this," says Santosh Kumar, an authorised vendor.

Hubballi-Escom Managing Director Vyshali M L says many applicants apply randomly and back-off at the time of vendor selection after realising that only 50% of the total cost of installation is subsidised.

She says there is no dearth of solar panels. "More than 52,000 households under Hescom are out of Gruhajyothi scheme and we are targeting them for PMSG:MBY. Going is a bit tough," she says.

'K'taka not showing interest'

Speaking to *DH*, Union Minister of New and Renewable Energy Pralhad Joshi said unlike other states, Karnataka is not showing much interest in the scheme.

"It's a demand-driven scheme. The Union government has set aside Rs 75,021 crore for this scheme. Several states in the country are taking benefit of the scheme, which not just increases their power generation but also reduces burden on government spending. Unfortunately, Karnataka is not utilising it."

He says Karnataka government is more interested in purchasing fossil-fuel at Rs 6 a unit, but not ready to incentivise green energy production.

Rajanna sees 'systematic conspiracy' by 3 leaders behind his ouster

MADHUGIRI (TUMAKURU DISTRICT), DHNS: Senior Congress leader K N Rajanna, who was sacked from the Siddaramaiah's Cabinet following the direction by the party high command, said on Friday that he was a victim of a systematic conspiracy by three leaders. He however refused to reveal names of three leaders.

"Three leaders systematically conspired in Delhi against me. Even I know how to finish someone off politically. But I will not get to that level now. Time will come...," Rajanna told reporters here.

"I will visit Delhi after the Assembly session is over and will meet leaders, including Rahul Gandhi. I will argue my case and try to know the exact reason behind the decision to remove me from the Cabinet. I am sure I will convince the high command and get the ministerial berth back," he added.

"I don't lie to further my interests. Yes. I have lied on several occasions for the good of others. I have made statements in open on certain issues like appointing additional deputy chief ministers and change of guard at KPCC. What's wrong with it? I have spoken plain truth. I have not spoken ill about someone. The party diktat not to speak to media and the current situation makes the truth bitter," he said.

Rajanna's comment on Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's vote theft allegations is believed to have proved costly for the leader. He had questioned his party leaders as to why they didn't prevent irregularities reported while preparing electoral roll when the party is in power. The Madhugiri MLA, however, said that India alliance had lost more than 20 seats during the 2024 Lok Sabha polls due to 'vote theft'.

Don't target Dharmasthala under garb of probe: BJP

BENGALURU, DHNS

BJP leaders on Friday alleged that the Congress, having come under the influence of Communist ideology, was seeking to malign the image of the Dharmasthala temple.

Leader of Opposition in the Legislative Council Chalavadi T Narayanaswamy and former Deputy Chief Minister Dr C N Ashwath Narayan, interacting with journalists at the Karnataka BJP headquarters in Bengaluru, voiced their disapproval of the government's management of the entire affair.

Chalavadi demanded the immediate arrest of the 'masked man', the revelations of whom set the media abuzz and ultimately prompted the state government to constitute a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe allegations of scores of bodies buried in the temple town. The LoP said that the 'masked man', far from assisting the SIT, was actually directing the investigation.

"He is even claiming to have been involved in multiple instances of murder and rape," said Chalavadi, demanding that the government disclose the identity of the masked man.

Ashwath Narayan, meanwhile, made it clear that the BJP was not opposed to the SIT probe into reports of mysterious deaths in Dharmasthala.

"But under the garb of a probe, Dharmasthala, the temple or the Dharmadhikari of the shrine must not be targeted," he said.

A day after Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar voiced his doubts about allegations of 'mass burials' at Dharmasthala, Ashwath Narayan on Friday urged the former to order a probe into those involved in the conspiracy to tarnish the image of the temple town. He also questioned the Home Department's inaction against those uploading provocative posts about Dharmasthala on social media.

"In Dakshina Kannada, posts by BJP supporters result in suo motu cases being filed, but no action taken against those attacking Dharmasthala and its Dharmadhikari," said the former Deputy CM. He also criticised social media influencers and YouTubers for offering one-sided facts on the case.

"This is deeply hurtful to the devotees of Lord Manjunatheshwara," said Ashwath Narayan.

BJP plans mega rally against 'smear campaign' in Dharmasthala today

Party leaders, supporters to take pledge to uphold Hindu rights, protect temples

BENGALURU, DHNS

MLA S R Vishwanath.

In a major show of strength, the Opposition BJP has organised a massive rally to Dharmasthala, with thousands expected to participate in over 400 vehicles on Saturday. Yelahanka MLA and senior BJP leader S R Vishwanath detailed the plan on Friday, highlighting the party's commitment to safeguarding Hindu temples and traditions.

Preparations are underway for a week in response to a 'smear campaign' by some YouTubers and social media influencers against the revered Dharmasthala Manjunatheshwara temple and its Dharmadhikari, Veerendra Heggade.

Vishwanath stated that the BJP welcomed the state government's formation of a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe alleged mysterious murders but opposed the smear campaign targeting the temple town, deity, and Dharmadhikari.

The rally's key moment will be taking a pledge at Dharmasthala to uphold Hindu rights and protect temple sanctity across Karnataka. Vishwanath said the group will arrive by 3 PM, have lunch, seek divine blessings, and take the pledge collectively.

Key BJP leaders, including state president B Y Vijayendra, Leader of the Opposition R Ashoka, and 30–35 MLAs, from Udupi, Mangaluru, Chikkamagaluru, and Hassan districts will join on Sunday to address workers post-temple visit.

During the visit, BJP leaders are also expected to meet the Dharmadhikari and express the party's moral support in light of recent developments surrounding the temple town.

Vishwanth noted that supporters will assemble at various points, including Vishwanath's residence at 5.45 am, Hesaraghatta, and near Nelamangala toll plaza.

'Save Dharmasthala'

Each vehicle will have saffron flags, and four to five people inside, all wearing saffron stoles. There will be three saffron-colored stickers on each vehicle with the messages: "Save Dharmasthala," "We are with Dharmasthala," and "Dharmasthala Chalo." Vehicles will be assigned serial numbers, with ambulances and mechanics accompanying the rally.

Vishwanath expressed pride as planned vehicles doubled from 200 to over 400. He also mentioned that a party convention might take place on August 24, although this has not yet been confirmed.

Action against those 'defaming' Dharmasthala, warns DKS

BENGALURU, DHNS: Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Friday said the state government is considering action against individuals engaged in what he described as a "misinformation campaign" targeting Sri Kshetra Dharmasthala.

Addressing reporters at the KPCC office, Shivakumar, who is also the KPCC president, said the matter was not about supporting or opposing Dharmasthala, but about following due legal process.

"I have known Dharmasthala closely and have great faith in the place. I firmly believe the conspiracy will be exposed in the coming days. The home minister will present the facts of the case in the House," he said.

Shivakumar added that Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, during a legislature party meeting, had directed members to ensure no one conspired to defame or spread misinformation.

"The chief minister has instructed us to initiate action against those making false allegations. We will also work towards this," he said.

Sharanabasawappa Appa laid to rest

KALABURAGI, DHNS: Thousands of devotees paid their last respect to the 8th Peetadhipathi of Sharanabasaveshwar Samasthan Dr Sharanabasawappa Appa who died due to age-related illness here on Thursday night. The mortal remains of Appa were laid to rest, with full state honours, in the Sharanabasaveshwar shrine complex in the presence of the family members.

Thousands of devotees gather at Sharanabasaveshwar shrine complex in Kalaburagi on Friday to pay their last respects to Dr Sharanabasawappa Appa. DH PHOTO/TAJUDDIN AZAD

Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister Priyank Kharge, state BJP president B Y Vijayendra paid their final tributes to the spiritual leader and educationist.

Business establishments surrounding the temple were shut as a mark of respect to Dr Appa. Thousands of devotees visited Sharanabasaveshwar Shrine complex on Friday to catch a glimpse of Appa's mortal remains.

ಮಹಿಳೆಯರ ಮತ್ತು ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ.
ಚಾಮರಾಜಪೇಟೆ ಸರ್ಕಲ್, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ–577001
ಇ–ಮೇಲ್: wchdvg.84@gmail.com ದೂ. ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 08192 258784
ಸಂ: ಮಮಆ/ಸರಬ/72/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 13.08.2025

ಸಂಕ್ಷಿಪ್ತ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

2025–26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆಗೆ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ಸಾಮಗ್ರಿ/ಔಷಧಿ/ಉಪಕರಣ/ಸಲಕರಣೆ ಖರೀದಿಸುವ ಸಂಬಂಧ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.
(1) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೌಲ್ಯ ರೂ.75.00 ಲಕ್ಷ.
(2) ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಮೊಬಲಗು ರೂ. 1,50,000–00
(3) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅಪ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಲು ಪ್ರಾರಂಭ ದಿನಾಂಕ:–13–08–2025 ಬೆಳಗ್ಗೆ 11:00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ (4) ಪ್ರೀ ಬಿಡ್ ಸಭೆ ನಡೆಯುವ ದಿ:–19–08–2025 ಬೆಳಗ್ಗೆ:11:00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ (5) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅಪ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ:– 20–08–2025 ಮಧ್ಯಾಹ್ನ 05:30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ (6) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ:–22–08–2025 ಬೆಳಗ್ಗೆ 11:00ಗಂಟೆಗೆ (7) ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ:–28–08–2025 ಬೆಳಗ್ಗೆ:11:00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ (8) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ಸ್ಥಳ:–ಮಹಿಳೆಯರ ಮತ್ತು ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ

ಸಹಿ/– ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ಅಧೀಕ್ಷಕರು,
ಮಹಿಳೆಯರ ಮತ್ತು ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ.
ವಾಸಾಇ/ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ/264/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025–26

ಕಾವೇರಿ ನೀರಾವರಿ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ
(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಉದ್ಯಮ)
ಎಕ್ಸಿಕ್ಯೂಟಿವ್ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್ ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ
ನಂ. 3 ಹೇಮಾವತಿ ಎಡದಂಡೆ ನಾಲಾ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಕಾವೇರಿ ನೀರಾವರಿ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ, ಕೆ.ಆರ್. ಪೇಟೆ, ಮಂಡ್ಯ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ

ಇ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : 01/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 28–07–2025
ಇ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : 02/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ : 14–08–2025

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : 02–01/2025–26
ದಿ: 28–07–2025 08 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳು

ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : 02–01/2025–26 ದಿ: 28–07–2025 ಗೆ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತೆ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ ಮಾಡಿ ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.
ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 21–08–2025 ರ ಸಂಜೆ : 5.30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ,
ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 22–08–2025 ರ ಸಂಜೆ 5.30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ
ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 25–08–2025 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ

ಸಹಿ/– ಎಕ್ಸಿಕ್ಯೂಟಿವ್ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್
ನಂ. 3, ಹೇಮಾವತಿ ಎಡದಂಡೆ ನಾಲಾ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಕೆ.ಆರ್. ಪೇಟೆ

ದೊಡ್ಡತೋಗೂರು ಪಟ್ಟಣ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ – 560 100
ಫೋನ್: 080–22111177, E-Mail:ka.doddathoguru.tp@gmail.com
ಸಂ: ದೊಪಂಪ/ತಾ.ಶಾ/ಟೆಂ/10/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ:14.08.2025

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
(ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾತ್ರ)

ದೊಡ್ಡತೋಗೂರು ಪಟ್ಟಣ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬರುವ ದೊಡ್ಡತೋಗೂರು ಮತ್ತು ಬೆಟ್ಟದಾಸನಪುರ ಪ್ರದೇಶದ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 2025–26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಪಟ್ಟಣ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿ ಸ್ವಂತ ನಿಧಿಯಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಹೈಮಾಸ್ಟ್ ಮತ್ತು ಎಲ್.ಇ.ಡಿ ಬೀದಿ ದೀಪಗಳನ್ನು ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕರ ಹಿತದೃಷ್ಟಿಯಿಂದ ಅಳವಡಿಸಲು ಉದ್ದೇಶಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಅದರಂತೆ ನಿಯಮಾನುಸಾರ ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಆಸಕ್ತಿಯುಳ್ಳ ಅರ್ಹ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಸದರಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು. ವಿವರ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತಿದೆ.

ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ.	ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ	ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಟೆಂಡರಿಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)
1	DMA/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT 47192	84.00	71,18,623/-	1,42,372/-

1) ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಫಾರಂಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 26.08.2025, ಸಮಯ ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ.
2) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 28.08.2025, ಸಂಜೆ 5.30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ.
ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳಂದು ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ರಜೆ ಘೋಷಣೆಯಾದಲ್ಲಿ ಅದರ ಮುಂದಿನ ಕೆಲಸದ ದಿನಾಂಕವನ್ನು ಪರಿಗಣಿಸುವುದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಪಟ್ಟಣ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿಯ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಶಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/– ಆಡಳಿತಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ದೊಡ್ಡತೋಗೂರು ಪಟ್ಟಣ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿ
ವಾಸಾಸಂಖ್ಯೆ/ವಾಪ್ರ/ಜೆಎ/2339/2025–26
ಸಹಿ/– ಮುಖ್ಯಾಧಿಕಾರಿ ದೊಡ್ಡತೋಗೂರು ಪಟ್ಟಣ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿ

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
ZILLA PANCHAYATH, BELLARY
Office of the Executive Engineer, P.R.E. Division, Bellary.
No. EE/PRED/BLY/AE-1/various heads/2025-26/764 Dt. 13-08-2025.

Tender Notification (Through KPPP Portal only)

On behalf of Hon'ble Governor of Karnataka tenders are invited from the eligible contractors who have enrolled in Panchayath Raj Engineering Department for 15 works comprising of approved Buildings and Goods Supply works under 2022-23 Sate fund **4202-01-201-1-08-132** and **4202-01-201-1-07-139** Toilet Construction, 2024-25 State Fund **4202-01-201-1-08-423** Classroom Construction, 2024-25 State Fund **4202-01-201-1-08-423** Toilet Construction, 2015-16 Grama Vikas Yojane, 2024-25 MLA Grant, 2023-24 MLA (MLC Honarable Sri Shasheela ji Namoshi) and 2024-25 CM Special Grants for Temple Renovation through KPPP portal.

Indent No. 1.RDPR/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT18061, 2.RDPR/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT18056, 3.RDPR/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT18024, 4.RDPR/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT18023, 5.RDPR/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT17935, 6.RDPR/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT16861, 7.RDPR/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT16811, 8.RDPR/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT16862, 9.RDPR/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT17785, 10.RDPR/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT17934, 11.RDPR/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT17933, 12.RDPR/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT18022, 13.RDPR/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT17635, 14.RDPR/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT18063, 15.RDPR/2025-26/IND10790

Contractors are required to submit the tender before **28-08-2025 at 4.30 PM** by uploading the relevant documents through KPPP portal website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in by downloading the formats for submission of tenders from **13-08-2025 to 28-08-2025 at 4.30 PM.** Tenders will be opened through KPPP portal on **29-08-2025 at 5.30 PM.** Any changes in the notification will be published KPPP website only. Accepting/rejection of tenders without assigning reason is reserved. Any details can be obtained in person at the office or through telephone No. 08392-266173.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
DIPR/Ballari/371/KSMCA/2025-26 Panchayath Raj Engineering Division Ballari

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Farmers worried over poor state of 6 TB dam crest gates

TB dam, from Page 1

Though this gate is leaking, Tungabhadra Board technical officer Raghavendra said steps will be taken to plug it.

The expert committee had recommended the replacement of all 33 crest gates.

Authorities have released around 130 tmcft of water into the river during this monsoon. On Friday, inflow had reached 23 cusecs and a like amount of water is being released to maintain the storage level at 80 tmcft.

Officials could not replace the gates this year due to the early onset of monsoon and plan to replace all crest gates before next June.

Farmers in paddy growing areas of Koppal, Raichur, Vijayanagar and Ballari districts have been deprived of water for their second crop since the dam is unable to maintain maximum storage, said Koppal District In-charge Minister Shivaraj Tangadagi, who is also ICC Irrigation Advisory Committee chairman.

Meanwhile, Gangavati MLA G Janardhan Reddy has slammed the state government for failing to replace all crest gates during summer.

Modi chants 'self-reliance' mantra at Red Fort

Modi chants, from Page 1

Referring to the fast-evolving situation where "economic self-interest is growing across the globe", Modi said that "we must strive to enhance our own strength and standing", even as he referred to Operation Sindoor, which could not have been executed with "such swiftness" if the country depended on others for equipment and supplies.

In an indirect reference to Pakistan's saber-rattling and its growing bonhomie with the US, Modi called the precision strike on terror targets deep inside Pakistan, in response to the Pahalgam terror attack, the "new normal".

"The nuclear blackmail that has gone on for so long will no longer be endured. If our enemies continue this attempt in the future, our army will give a fitting and crushing response," Modi said.

The Prime Minister also expressed concern about the country's dependency on global markets for its fertiliser needs. Urging farmers to make judicious use of fertilisers, and the private sector to make India self-reliant on fertiliser.

Calling upon the people to buy and use "swadeshi" products, he urged all political parties to come together on this issue.

80% SCs literates, but only 7.41% are graduates: Das panel

40 communities yet to have MBBS graduate

SUJAY B M
BENGALURU, DHNS

In yet another indicator of the educational backwardness of Scheduled Castes (SCs), the Justice Nagamohan Das Commission's report on internal reservation for Scheduled Castes (SCs) has found that merely 7.41% of literates are graduates.

As per the survey report, the SC community has a literacy rate of 80.85% (86.54 lakh), which is higher than the literacy rate of SCs as per the 2011 census. However, only 6.33 lakh (7.41%) of these are graduates. That means, only 5.91% of 1.07 crore SCs are graduates.

According to a source, the high dropout rate and abysmal figure of graduates is mainly due to the social stigma, especially in higher education institutions, followed by economic factors.

"As the Supreme Court has specified, literacy is an indicator to measure the social situation of a community. However, literacy alone isn't sufficient to obtain gainful employment. As education is a fundamental right and as primary and middle-school education are universal and compulsory, several SCs have this level of education. However, most castes haven't been able to obtain degrees, post-graduations, technical, vocational education," the report notes.

The number of degree holders is an indicator of progress for SC youths, the report adds.

While the general educational status of the SCs remains poor, the report has flagged that the condition of most backward communities and those with less population is even worse.

According to the report, the Banjara and Bhovi (both "touchable" communities), Holeya and Madiga communities have got more representation than others. As many as 8.06 lakh of the 11.12 lakh SC pre-university certificate holders are from these four communities.

Amongst the 6.33 lakh graduates, 4.49 lakh (71%) hail from these four communities. The pattern follows in professional education too, with 67.13% engineering graduates and 69.57% medical graduates hailing from these four communities.

On the other hand, as many as 25 castes are yet to have a single person with a technical degree. As many as 14 castes are yet to have an engineering graduate, while 40 don't even have an MBBS doctor. As many as 54 communities don't have a single PhD holder.

"Since smaller communities don't have any political representation, they don't have any exposure. Representatives from smaller communities may not be able to win direct elections and the government should take steps to make them Rajya Sabha members or MLCs. However, governments don't seem to have any will to extend such facilities to these communities," Dalit activist Indudhara Honnapura said.

"The ongoing fight for internal reservation was amongst the big communities and not the smaller ones. Since their numbers are small and they are not electorally significant, they are constantly ignored by political parties," he added.

Modi promises GST bonanza on Diwali

GST, from Page 1

"In the last 8 years, we have done a big reform of GST, reduced the tax burden across the country, simplified the tax regime and after 8 years, the need of the hour is that we should review it once," Modi said.

According to sources, the GST is likely to be restructured and simplified with just two main tax slabs of 5% and 18% from the current 4-tier structure of 5%, 12%, 18% and 28%.

Majority of the items which are currently taxed at 12% will be moved to the 5% bracket. Most of the daily-use products by the common man will be taxed at 5%. This means there will be a sharp reduction in the prices of the products which are currently taxed at the rate of 12%.

Similarly, around 90% of the items, which are currently taxed at 28% slab, will be moved to 18%.

However, a special tax slab of 40% is proposed to be introduced for luxury and sin goods like tobacco. Some luxury items, which are currently taxed at 28%, may move to the higher slab of 40%. At present, tax incidence on tobacco is 88%, which is likely to remain the same.

The Union Finance Ministry has proposed these tax structures in its input given to a ministerial panel headed by Bihar's Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary.

The state ministers panel is scheduled to meet next week to discuss the GST rate rationalisation. The proposal is likely to be discussed in the upcoming GST Council meeting.

Lauding the proposed GST reforms, corporate leaders and analysts said it will help accelerate economic growth by boosting consumption.

"These reforms will not only reduce the tax burden on citizens and businesses but also boost the ease of doing business, stimulate domestic consumption, and attract greater investments," said CII President Rajiv Memani.

MS Mani, Partner, Deloitte India, said, "Moving to a two-rate GST structure will put India at par with advanced economies, which have a low rate for essentials and another rate for everything else. Classification issues and disputes will significantly reduce if we get a two-rate structure," he said.

ED seizes Rs 1.41 cr cash, 6.75 kg gold from Cong MLA Sail's premises

KARWAR, DHNS: The Enforcement Directorate has seized Rs 1.41 crore in cash and 6.75 kg gold jewellery and bullion from the residence and bank lockers of Karwar Congress MLA Satish Krishna Sail and his family during the raids conducted on the premises of the legislature in Karwar, Goa and Mumbai on Aug 13 and 14.

The case pertains to the alleged illegal export of iron ore by a company allegedly linked to the legislator. The ED also raided other entities, including Ashapura Minechem, Shri Lal Mahal, Swastik Steels (Hosepet), ILC Industries, Sri Lakshmi Venkateshwara Minerals, under the provision of of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA)

Sail, along with the aforementioned companies, was convicted by the special court for MPs and MLAs in Bengaluru for illegal export of iron ore carried out by Shree Mallikarjun Shipping Pvt. Ltd, the ED said in a statement.

The ED investigation found that Sail, in collusion with other companies and Belekeri Port officials, had "illegally" exported iron ore fines weighing nearly 1.25 lakh metric tonnes between April 19, 2010 and June 10, 2010, the agency alleged.

The agency alleged that the total value of the illegal exports by the company owned by Sail was Rs 86.78 crore.

Along with Rs 1.14 crore cash and 6.75 kg gold, bank accounts of the accused companies, holding Rs 14.13 crore deposits, have also been frozen during the search operations.

Meanwhile, Bhatkal Congress MLA and minister Mankal Vaidya alleged politics of vengeance and vendetta behind the ED raids on Satish Sail. Sail is not well. He is undergoing treatment at a hospital in Delhi. Hence, he could not visit his house during the ED raids. The raid on Congress MLA is an act of political vendetta done at the behest of the BJP," Vaidya said.

ONE FOR THE ALBUM

Girls take a selfie at the Independence Day parade in Mysuru on Friday. DH PHOTO/ANUP RAGH T

◆ WEATHER ◆

Overview: Rainfall occurred at few places over North Interior and at most places over Coastal Karnataka and South Interior Karnataka
Forecast Aug 16: Rainfall to occur at many places over the state.

INTERIOR NORTH			
Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Belagavi	24.7	20.2	1.8
Bidar	27.6	20.6	40.2
Vijayapura	26.5	21.5	0.6
Dharwad	24.8	19.2	02
Haveri	23.8	21.2	07
Kalaburagi	26.6	22	0.5
Raichur	27.6	21.8	6.8
COASTAL			
Honnavar	26.1	22.9	29.6
Karwar	26.8	25.2	77
Shirali	NA	NA	NA
Mangaluru	24.7	21.1	42.9

INTERIOR SOH			
Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Agumbe	NA	NA	55
Bengaluru	24.8	19.3	0.4
Ballari	NA	NA	NA
Chamarajanagar	28.7	20.6	00
Chikkamagaluru	NA	NA	NA
Chitradurga	25.4	20.6	00
Davangere	24.5	19	3.4
Hassan	22.4	20.8	1.5
Mysuru	27	19	02
Madikeri	NA	NA	NA
Kolar	27.4	21.5	TR
OTHER STATIONS			
New Delhi	27.7	24.2	80
Kolkata	31.7	27	00
Mumbai	31	25	11
Chennai	33.9	26.6	00
Pune	29.8	22.5	00
Hyderabad	28	21.5	2.9
Th'puram	30.4	23.4	25

Boy killed, 9 hurt in suspected LPG blast in B'luru

LPG blast, from Page 1

Mubarak (10), who lived next door, died from severe bleeding, officials said.

Others injured include Narasamma (50), Sabrina Banu (35), Fathima (8), Subramani (62), Sheikh Najeebulla (37), Pramila (38) and Rajesh (40). They are being treated at Victoria, Sanjay Gandhi and other hospitals.

"Kasturi and her daughter have sustained the most burns, while others are recovering," a senior police officer told *DH*.

"Prima facie, it is suspected to be a cylinder blast. Initial reports from the police and the BBMP suggest the same. Final reports from the forensic and fire departments, the SDRF and the home department will reveal the exact cause. Once the debris is cleared, the actual cause will be known. The area has small houses where people reside. I have directed the BBMP chief to repair and rebuild the damaged houses," the chief minister told reporters.

However, the jurisdictional Adugodi police have not ruled out other causes of the explosion, including the presence of inflammable goods, as the process of debris clearance is still underway.

A police source told *DH* that no trace of explosive substances had been found so far.

The fire control room received the distress call at 8.25 am and dispatched two fire tenders a minute later.

Chinnnayanpalya, a working-class neighbourhood, has about 35 houses, many over 50 years old.

A local resident said Aiyappa and Kasturi had bought an LPG cylinder from an unknown source on Thursday night. "They asked the neighbours to lend them a cylinder as theirs had run out over two days ago," the resident old *DH*.

6 killed after a part of dargah near Humayun's Tomb collapses

NEW DELHI, PTI

Six people, including three women, were killed and five others injured after the wall and the roof of two adjacent rooms of a dargah near the Humayun's Tomb in Delhi's Nizamuddin collapsed on Friday, officials said.

The incident happened at Dargah Sharif Patte Shah around 3:30 pm. The dargah shares its boundary walls with the 16th century garden-tomb.

A senior police officer said the two rooms, one of which was occupied by an imam while the other was a resting room, were in a deteriorating state, and due to heavy rain in the past few days, the roof and one side of a wall collapsed when around 15 people took shelter there.

The premises houses a mosque, where people frequently come to pray, a dargah and at least two rooms, officials said.

A local said people gathered on the premises to offer Friday prayers at the mosque.

There is also a mosque on the premises of the Humayun's Tomb, and since there was a parking lot near the dargah where the incident occurred, some took shelter there because of rain. As the rain intensified, people also took shelter in the imam's room.

Among those who lost their lives are Moin Uddin (32), from Bihar, the sole breadwinner for his family and 79-year-old Swaroop Chand. A four-year-old boy was among the five injured, police said.

"After the collapse, 12 victims, mostly visitors, were rescued from under the debris. Nine of them were admitted to the AIIMS Trauma Centre, where five died.

"A male patient was admitted to the LNJP Hospital, while a female patient was taken to the RML Hospital," DCP (Southeast) Hemant Tiwari said. The man admitted to the LNJP Hospital died during treatment, he said.

Civic agencies are being informed for further investigation at their end, he said.

Various agencies, including Delhi Police, Delhi Fire Services (DFS), National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), and Archeological Survey of India (ASI), were involved in the rescue operation.

The victims belonged to the surrounding areas, Mustafabad and Zakir Nagar.

Joint Commissioner of Police Sanjay Kumar Jain said people were visiting the dargah for Friday prayers and were sitting inside the room due to rain when the incident took place.

The rescue operation has been completed, police said,

Authorities later clarified that the incident did not involve the main dome of the 16th-century monument but a smaller room within its premises.

"There has been no damage to the Humayun's Tomb. A new structure was being built near the Tomb, a portion of which collapsed," Ratish Nanda, conservation architect at the Aga Khan Trust for Culture (AKTC), the organisation behind the restoration of Humayun's Tomb, said.

Renukaswamy case: 2 more remanded in judicial custody

BENGALURU, DHNS: Two more accused in the Renukaswamy murder case were remanded in judicial custody on Friday.

Anu Kumar alias Anu (Accused 7) and Jagadeesh alias Jagga (A6) were arrested from Chitradurga on Thursday. On Friday, they were produced before a judge who sent them to the Parappana Agrahara prison in Bengaluru.

On Thursday, the Supreme Court had cancelled the bail of Kannada actor Darshan Thoogudeepa, his female friend Pavithra Gowda and five others.

Pavithra (A1), Darshan (A2), Pradoosh S Rao alias Pradoosh (A14), Lakshman M (A12) and Nagaraju R (A11) were arrested during the day. They were produced before a judge who remanded them in judicial custody and sent them to the Bengaluru prison.

According to sources, Darshan has been assigned Undertrial Prisoner (UTP) number of 7314, Pavithra - 7313, Nagaraj - 7315, Lakshman - 7316 and Pradoosh - 7317.

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Falling inflation, sluggish growth

The trajectory of Consumer Price Index (CPI)-based inflation, after moving up for years, has been on a downward trend in the past few months. The retail inflation rate fell to an eight-year low of 1.55% in July, mainly because of the fall in food prices, including prices of vegetables and pulses, and a favourable base effect. In July 2024, the rate was 3.6%. Food inflation was in negative territory year on year. It is likely to remain low in the coming months because of a good monsoon and healthy agricultural activity. The reservoir levels are at the optimum, and projections for the kharif output are good. This will help in the stabilisation of prices. All this has kept inflation within the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)'s comfort zone of 2% to 6%.

Core inflation, which excludes food and fuel prices, was at 4.1% in July. It showed a decline from 4.4% in the previous month, but was above the RBI's target of 4%. In the case of other categories of consumption, inflation remained at or near the June levels. It was flat at 2.4% for pan, tobacco, and intoxicants and at the previous month's levels for clothing and footwear. The fuel and light category saw an uptick from 2.5% to 2.7%. The overall picture is one of stability, and the prices may not pose any serious concern soon. But the situation may not remain the same in the medium term. The RBI has predicted that inflation is likely to pick up from January 2026. If the country has to shift from Russian oil because of pressure from the US, it will have an impact on inflation.

Core inflation shows a decline. Now, it is time for the much-needed growth momentum

While the inflation trends are not a cause for major worry at the moment, growth prospects do not give much comfort. The RBI has estimated a 6.5% growth for the financial year, but it has also said that uncertain global circumstances may have an impact. The tariff war is certain to affect growth in some sectors. The Index of Industrial Production was at a 10-month low in July, and other indicators like tax collections are not very positive. Low inflation has created an environment where the government can act to further growth. India cannot sustain growth based on public expenditure anymore. Private investment is sluggish, and demand is weak. The government has to address these issues to provide momentum for growth, or even to sustain the present growth levels in adverse circumstances.

Food hygiene: Oversight imperative

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has done well to caution e-commerce platforms against violations of food safety norms at a time when the digital food market is booming. The regulator has warned them of "severe action" if they fail to comply with safety protocols and standards. It has directed the platforms to share data on their warehouses, food handlers, and other relevant information, and to "prominently display" their FSSAI licence number on their receipts, bills, etc. These measures are being implemented to ensure greater transparency and accountability. It is also mandatory for all food handlers to undergo compulsory FSSAI training in hygiene protocols. The training plans and their timelines need to be shared with the authority. A proposal for a display of the "use by" date for food products at the consumer interface is also under consideration.

The FSSAI has directed the platforms to adhere to hygiene and food safety protocols across warehouses and storage facilities, and upload their photographs to the food compliance portal. The direction for food safety training for all personnel, including the delivery staff, should be strictly enforced. There should be easy and efficient channels for consumer feedback, which must be acted upon. While the intention and proposals are welcome, the challenge is to translate them into practice. The FSSAI does not have a good record in implementing safety norms in the traditional food business landscape. This may be traced to inefficiency, staff shortage, and even corruption. The authority will require more resources and expertise to ensure that e-commerce platforms comply with the best standards and regulations. The business is expanding rapidly, and keeping pace to ensure quality will be a major challenge. While the need for self-regulation is important for the platforms, the critical factor that will ensure the best results is alertness on the part of the regulator and the consumers.

E-commerce services warrant special regulatory attention. FSSAI's warning on compliance is welcome

The FSSAI conducts regular surveys and checks to ensure that the food offered in various forms and from various platforms meets the basic standards of quality. Changing lifestyle choices have led to a surge in fast food chains and food aggregator platforms, with children among the major consumers. The industry calls for special regulatory attention because it involves public health. While the FSSAI should put in place an effective oversight mechanism to ensure the best quality, segments such as packaging, which have a bearing on quality, will also need to be attended to.

LIFESTYLE ON LOANS

Debt and the collapse of middle-class dreams

Inflation matters, but India's salaried class is also weighed down by expectations misaligned with means

MAYA K AND NEERAJ KUMAR

'The real trap isn't inflation or taxes – it's the belief that a Rs-10 lakh car is a just reward for hard work.'

This prompting statement by Monish Gosar, a Mumbai-based data scientist, became a viral LinkedIn post recently. It shed light on the escalating financial challenges faced by India's middle-class families. Historically recognised for their financial prudence and strong savings culture, these households are now increasingly weighed down by growing debt.

So, what defines the middle class in India? While the definition can be complex, the National Council for Applied Economic Research (NCAER) classifies middle-class households as those earning between Rs 5 lakh and Rs 30 lakh annually. Just a few years ago, researchers predicted that this demographic group would expand significantly, from 31% of the population in 2021 to 61% by 2047. The projections were optimistic, indicating a middle-class population of one billion by 2047. However, recent trends suggest that this projected growth may now be at risk. Because debt among middle-class families is rising sharply. Once considered a key engine of economic growth, this class is now increasingly burdened by loans and financial stress. The average income for middle-class earners has stagnated at around Rs 10.5 lakh per year for over a decade. When adjusted for inflation, the real value of this income has declined.

According to a recent report from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), household debt constitutes 42.9% of India's GDP at current market prices. Additionally, an analysis by Morgan Stanley reveals that household debt rose from 23.1% of GDP to 23.9% in early 2025. Meanwhile, household savings, once a significant strength, are on the decline. Data from the National Statistical Office shows that households' share of total savings has fallen from 68.2% in 2011-12 to 60.9% today. Their share of GDP decreased from 23.6% to 18.4% during the same period. Although people are still saving, their financial liabilities have increased at a faster rate, resulting in a decline in the net savings-to-GDP ratio from 7.4% to 5.3%. This shows that while individuals are saving, they are also borrowing more and accumulating greater debt.

It is widely accepted that the income levels of regular salaried employees in India have increased in recent years. According to data published by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI) in 2024, average wages in India rose to Rs 17,997.54 per month from 2017 to 2024, culminating in an all-time high of Rs 21,103 per month in the second quarter of 2024. However, as the month draws to a close, they often find themselves stressed about managing their EMIs and credit card payments. The issue extends beyond stagnant wages and rising prices; an increasing number of people are relying on loans and credit cards for everyday purchases, ranging from smartphones and appliances to groceries and fuel. What was once considered "luxury borrowing" for significant investments, such as homes or vehicles, has now become a common practice for everyday necessities.

This 'lifestyle inflation' happens when people spend more as their income increases. A salary raise often leads to an upgraded lifestyle, and over time, spending can exceed earnings. With Buy Now Pay Later (BNPL) schemes, zero-cost EMIs, and easy credit accessed through apps, many end up spending more than they can afford. Debt builds up gradually until their EMIs take up a third or more of their income. The concept of borrowing has shifted from being a backup to a default means of meeting their daily transactions.

Missing financial discipline

One of the major reasons for this rising debt is the pressure from social media. Even individuals in the top 10% of earners in India often feel "poor" while scrolling through their social media accounts. They start comparing their lives to those of strangers, creating the illusion that everyone else is doing better. This 'competition' incurs significant costs. As expenditures increase, long-term savings often become secondary. Financial experts emphasise that spending more on lifestyle reduces future savings, and it is well-known that the early years are critical for wealth generation.

According to the RBI, currently, 5 to 10% of India's middle-class community is stuck in a debt trap. This financial pressure is leading to something even more serious – rising suicide cases. According to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) statistics, suicides due to financial stress rose from 4,970 in 2018 to over 7,000 in 2022, increasing from 3.4% to 4.1% of total suicides. This issue isn't limited to farmers or the poor; it's affecting salaried urban families as well. A study conducted in Surat found that 19% of the 1,866 suicides between 2022 and 2024 were due to financial problems. Among those individuals, 90% were already in debt.

This crisis isn't solely about policy or inflation; it's also deeply rooted in personal choices. There's a clear gap between people's expectations and their economic reality. Furthermore, the shift to the new tax regime has contributed to this situation. While the old tax regime promoted savings through various deductions, effectively encouraging a culture of financial discipline, the new regime simplifies tax filing and allows individuals more freedom in choosing between saving and spending.

However, this autonomy, combined with evolving lifestyles and the desire to remain visible and relevant among peers, has led to a surge in unnecessary consumption. Social perceptions and the pressure to maintain a certain standard of living are significantly contributing to rising financial strain. Although there may be structural challenges within the economy, true transformation begins with personal accountability. It is not solely about the amount you earn, but rather how effectively you manage that income to reach your objectives. Wealth is not created only through income; it is cultivated through discipline.

(The writers are assistant professors at the Department of Economics, CHRIST Deemed to be University, Bengaluru)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

Butter chicken with bullets

The Bengaluru hotel's aromas evoked memories of Punjab

GAUTAM KODIKAL

I sat at a table at The Tandoor in Bengaluru and ordered an old favourite from my youth, butter chicken and naan. The aromas flooded my mind with memories of my days in Punjab.

I walked into the portals of Brown Memorial Hospital in Ludhiana, and the first thing that struck me was the large sign above the reception: "PLEASE DEPOSIT YOUR FIREARMS HERE!"

I had joined a postgraduate programme in orthopaedics. I was allotted a room with a bath and shown a malodorous room which served as the "mess". The speciality of the day was butter chicken; on Sundays, we were served tandoori chicken. I soon realised why tandoori chicken was jocularly called the National Bird of Punjab! On occasion it was Irish stew floating in oil.

Work was hard, and I spent the first year scrubbing the operative site with soap and water, making me wonder if this was a Master of Surgery programme or a Master of Scrubbing!

Punjab can get stuffy in the summer, and the local populace prefer to travel on the roof of the bus. It was not uncommon to see an empty bus with the rooftop packed with people.

The British had allowed Sikhs to bear arms, so one often saw men and even a few women fully armed. Since alcohol is a favourite beverage after hours, this led to several gunfights. Often one saw a father bringing a son or a son bringing in a father whom he had shot following an inebriated argument. One day, the skirmishes spread to the ward, and I was greeted by a shower of gunshots. I ducked under a bed. The police came and disarmed two members of a rival gang, bedridden but still warring.

The tragedy of Punjab is a result of the Green Revolution. Bountiful harvests need threshers and fodder cutters to process the produce. Farmers hire these machines by the hour and, to keep working through the night, often resort to opium and dangerous practices like manually feeding the machine with their hands and feet. This results in horrific injuries. I was wonderstruck to see a tall, burly Sikh walk into the ER carrying his mangled limb or another limping in on a crushed foot. Alas, they were crushed beyond repair, and the only answer was an amputation. We once had a distressing "amputation night" where we had to conduct a dozen amputations.

The people of Punjab have an earthy sense of humour. A particularly unpopular village elder when subjected to multiple rectal examinations for an enlarged prostate exclaimed indignantly, "Doctor Saab, if this is the treatment for my malady, I could have got my villagers to give it!" Another elder, when asked if he smoked while he was undergoing a colonoscopy, remarked, "Why, is there smoke emanating from down there?"

I finished my meal and walked into the Bengaluru sunshine, pensive but smiling.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Publishing list of deleted voters is good to restore trust

The directive from the Supreme Court to the EC to upload the list of 65 lakh deleted voters from Bihar is a positive step. The deletion in Bihar raises questions about the number of voters who may have been deleted across the nation. Uploading the list is essential to restore electoral justice. The EC must provide a valid reason for deleting such a large number of voters' names, which has raised concerns about potential malpractice. The commission should adhere to the SC's directive and make public the reasons for deletion. As a neutral body, the EC must function without bias and uphold constitutional and democratic values. Its integrity is crucial to maintaining credibility and avoiding criticism from opposition parties.
J A Nathan, Bengaluru

Train caregivers

Apropos 'Caregivers as nation builders' (Aug 15), it highlights a significant challenge faced by India's ageing population. As the demand for skilled caregivers grows, it is essential to promote caregiving as a viable career option. With proper training and certification, caregiving can offer stability, dignity, and career growth. A well-designed short training programme with a stipend can equip young candidates, including school dropouts, to start their careers in old age homes, assisted living facilities, and other care settings. Entry-level salaries should be competitive, and experienced caregivers can progress to supervisory or care management roles. To attract youth, we need to showcase real stories of young caregivers making a difference and achieving financial stability. Partnerships with NGOs, schools, and community colleges can bring this opportunity to the forefront. By promoting caregiving as an attractive career choice, we can ensure that our ageing population receives the care and compassion they deserve.
Premkumar Raja, Bengaluru

Don't prejudge

It is unfortunate that Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar has inadvertently intervened in the Dharmasthala case, which is currently under investigation by a Special Investigation Team. As part of the government that ordered the SIT probe, he should refrain from prejudging the investigation. The minister's intervention may lower the morale of the SIT, and his claim that probing individual misdeeds will tarnish the reputation of the temple town is misguided. The truth will ultimately prevail, and it is essential to allow the SIT to conduct a thorough and unbiased investigation.
T V Pandarinath Naidu, Kodagu

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

Yes, Russian President Vladimir Putin will face severe economic consequences if he is not interested. I am not doing this for my health. I don't need it. I would like to focus on our country. But I am doing this to save a lot of lives.
Donald Trump, US President

God Complex: An unshakable belief characterised by consistently inflated feelings of personal ability, privilege, or infallibility.

TO BE PRECISE

PM launches 'Demography Mission'

IN PERSPECTIVE

Merz faces fire over arms halt

The German Chancellor is facing a conservative backlash at home over the stoppage of arms supplies to Israel

K M RAKESH

German Chancellor Friedrich Merz couldn't have landed in a spot worse than what he did after taking one of his toughest calls yet for a partial halt of arms supply to Israel that has been pummelling unarmed residents of Gaza, where 61,500 people, including journalists and aid workers, have died so far.

Merz had on August 8 pulled the plug on the supply of some crucial weapon systems that Israel has been allegedly using to kill Gazans in the ongoing war on a people stacked against heavy odds. But Merz came in for fire from his conservative Christian Democratic Union (CDU) and its sister party Christian Social Union, after his surprise decision considering Germany's long-standing cooperation with Israel.

The Chancellor reportedly took Lars Klingbeil, his Vice Chancellor of his centre-Left coalition partner Social Democratic Party, into confidence before taking the landmark decision. The Chancellor's party colleagues alleged that he failed to consult them before taking such a major decision.

German newspaper FAZ on August 10 reported that several CDU leaders were "stunned, angry and horrified," while CDU MP Roderich Kiesewetter commented on X that Merz's decision is "a serious political and strategic mistake on Germany's part."

Many leaders alleged that the decision was influenced by anti-Semites since Germany has always supported Israel in every possible way since World War II. Successive German governments had earnestly provided military and other aid to Israel as a reparation for the state-sponsored genocide by the Nazi regime of Adolf Hitler that killed around six million Jews.

Germany is a country where the denial of the Holocaust is a punishable offence. But anti-Semitism has sprung into national concern with the surge of the far-right Alternative for Deutschland (AfD), the second largest party in the German Bundestag.

Member of European Parliament Dennis Radtke of the CDU warned on X against allowing "foreign policy decisions to be influenced by the anti-Semitic mob on our streets." But an unfazed Merz told state broadcaster ARD: "I did not make this decision alone, but at the end of the day, it is a decision for which I alone must take responsibility. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called Merz to tell him that his goal was to free Gaza from Hamas and not to take it over.

Germany comes second only to the US in supplying weapons to Israel and is among the countries that decried the Hamas-led attack on Israel on October 7, 2023. Heavily armed Hamas militants had killed more than 1,200 Israelis and taken over 250 hostages, many of whom died in captivity, and some were released.

Shifting public opinion

While Germany was among the countries that quickly affirmed Israel's right to self-defence and continued supplying arms, the global public opinion had drastically changed after innocent civilians, including children, were targeted in Gaza. Multiple protests had broken out in Europe, especially Germany, leaving the authorities to address a rising sentiment against the killings that many interpreted as genocide, going by the pattern in which the Israeli Defence Forces targeted hospitals and civilian habitats, claiming Hamas used civilians as human shields.

But Germany, along with the US and Italy, continued supplying deadly weapons to Israel to bolster its arsenal. According to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), Germany supplied over a third of the weapons imported by Israel during 2020-24. This was a steep rise from hardly 6% in 2016-2020. The US, which supplied almost 92% of all weapons sourced by Israel, was down to 66% in 2020-24 when Germany increased its supplies.

Germany's arms supplies to Israel included armoured vehicles, anti-tank weapons, ammunition, and military trucks. According to media reports, Germany approved $355 million in arms sales to Israel in the first year of the ongoing Gaza war, of which 6% was classified as "offensive" and not to be used outside Israeli territory. They include armoured vehicles and deadly munitions, which were allegedly used on Gazans.

While Israel itself is a major arms manufacturer, the steady flow of weapons and their support systems from the US, Germany, and Italy, among other countries, helped the IDF to remain armed to the teeth. Israel is likely to send envoys to Berlin to find a way out of the imbroglio and prevent other arms suppliers from following suit. But it remains to be seen if Merz would dare to lift the embargo that has received much public support.

(The writer is a senior journalist based in Berlin)

The draft telecom policy focuses on better connectivity, investments, and the creation of jobs

Setting new targets for telecom transformation

GYANENDRA KESHRI
DH NEWS SERVICE

In 2018, the central government came out with the National Digital Communications Policy that replaced the National Telecom Policy, 2012. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government also decided to rechristen 'Telecom Commission' as 'Digital Communications Commission'. In two key initiatives that guide the growth and development of the sector, the term 'telecom' was replaced with 'digital communications'.

The National Digital Communications Policy, 2018, was focused on catering to the "modern needs of the digital communications sector of India".

Seven years down the line, the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has come out with a draft policy, bringing back the term 'telecom'. The draft National Telecom Policy, 2025, is anchored in six strategic missions: universal and meaningful connectivity, fostering innovation, promoting domestic manufacturing, ensuring secure and trusted network, enhancing ease of living and doing business and advancing sustainable development

In the draft, the DoT noted that the new policy "responds to the emerging opportunities and challenges presented by next-generation technologies such as 5G/6G, Artificial Intelligence (AI), Internet of Things (IoT), Quantum Communications, Satellite Network, and Blockchain".

"These innovations are reshaping global value chains, and India is uniquely positioned to leverage them to bridge the digital divide, foster inclusive growth, and establish itself as a global digital powerhouse," it said.

The policy, released for public consultation, puts investments, accessibility and jobs in focus. It targets to create 10 lakh new jobs and to upskill or reskill an equal number of workers to meet the future demand. The employment generation target proposed under the draft policy is just one-fourth of the 40 lakh jobs targeted under the National Digital Communications Policy of 2018.

The 2018 policy envisaged attracting investment worth $100 billion in the telecommunications sector by 2022. The draft policy talks about Rs 1 lakh crore (nearly $12 billion) annual investment until 2030. The average annual capital expenditure (capex) in the Indian telecom sector has been close to Rs 1 lakh crore in recent years. However, a large part of this money has gone to spectrum purchases.

While the 2018 policy had set a target to provide universal broadband connectivity at 50Mbps to every citizen, the new policy talks about "universal and meaningful" connectivity. It aims to ensure that 90% of the population in the country gets access to the fifth generation (5G) telecom service, while 4G coverage is targeted to be increased to 100%.

"By aiming for 100% 4G and 90% 5G coverage by 2030, expanding fibre-connected towers, public Wi-Fi hotspots, and leveraging satellite internet for remote areas, the policy ensures universal and meaningful connectivity, even in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities," said Atul Vivek, Chief Business Officer, NxtCell India.

"At its core, the draft NTP aims to strengthen India's telecom infrastructure to meet future demands, enabling high-speed, reliable, and secure connectivity across urban, rural and remote regions," said Tony Verghese, Partner at the JSA Advocates & Solicitors.

Amid growing protectionism and global trade tensions, local manufacturing would be the key focus of the sector going forward. The policy talks about self-reliant manufacturing and exports of telecom equipment from India.

It seeks to increase domestic telecom manufacturing output by 150%, with emphasis on localisation and design-led manufacturing. The new policy also talks about achieving 50% import substitution through telecom products designed, developed, and manufactured in India.

"The focus on fiberisation, renewable-powered telecom sites, and robust rural broadband will unlock new opportunities for inclusive growth," said Y S Surya Murthy, COO (Telecom Operations), Bondada Engineering Limited.

Amid the hype over billionaire Elon Musk-owned Starlink's entry into the Indian markets, the new policy has proposed the establishment of a flexible and supportive regulatory framework for satellite internet services to enhance connectivity for unserved or underserved areas.

DRAFT NATIONAL TELECOM POLICY, 2025

- The Union Ministry of Communications circulated the draft National Telecom Policy 2025 on July 24
- The NTP 2025 seeks to build upon the achievements of the National Digital Communications Policy 2018
- The NTP 2025 seeks to ensure universal and meaningful connectivity to all by 2030
- The new policy responds to the emerging opportunities and challenges presented by GenNext technologies.

Targets: NDCP 2018 vs Draft NTP 2025

	National Digital Communications Policy, 2018	Draft National Telecom Policy, 2025
Jobs	40 lakh	10 lakh new jobs
		Upskilling/reskilling 10 lakh workers to meet future demand
Investments	$100 billion (Rs 8.75 lakh crore)	Rs 1 lakh crore annually between 2025 to 2030
Connectivity	Broadband connectivity at 50 Mbps to every citizen	Covering 100% of population with 4G
		90% population with 5G
Gram Panchayats	1 Gbps connectivity to all Gram Panchayats by 2020 and 10 Gbps by 2022	Fiberisation of all Gram Panchayats under BharatNet with an uptime of over 98%
		Fibre connectivity to all government institutions at the village level
Share in GDP	Raising the Digital Communications sector's contribution to GDP from 6% in 2017 to 8%	Doubling the contribution of the sector to India's GDP by 2030

Draft NTP 2025 also seeks to...

1. Double the export of telecom products and services
2. Double the number of telecommunications startups
3. Double the sectoral R&D spending on emerging telecom technologies
4. Strengthen the security by adopting quantum-resistant cryptography
5. Reduce carbon footprint by 30%

Innovation: Positioning India among the top 10 global hubs for innovation and research in emerging technologies, such as 5G/6G, AI, IoT, and Quantum Communications.

Satellite Internet: Creating a supportive regulatory framework for satellite services to enhance connectivity for unserved or underserved areas

6G: Attaining 10% global share in 6G-related IPRs. Prioritise the release of spectrum for IMT, mmWave, and sub-THz for 6G

Compiled by **GYANENDRA KESHRI**, DHNS

'New policy to help India take early lead in 6G'

Amitoj Arya, Partner, EY Parthenon, is a strategy and operations advisor specialising in the telecom and media sector. In an interview with *DH*'s **Gyanendra Keshri,** Arya discusses the new telecom policy and its expected impact on the industry.

Excerpts:

What is your opinion on the draft NTP, 2025?

The policy is directionally strong and execution-oriented, with six clear missions for 2030: universal connectivity, innovation, domestic manufacturing, secure networks, ease of doing business, and sustainability. It sets measurable targets, such as 100% 4G and 90% 5G coverage, 100 million fibre-to-the-home (FTTH) households, one million public Wi-Fi hotspots, 80% tower fiberization, and a top 20 ICT Development Index ranking. The policy takes a balanced technology approach, preparing for 5G-Advanced and 6G networks, non-terrestrial networks (NTN), edge/cloud integration, SDN (Software Defined Networking), NFV (Network Function Virtualisation) and forward-looking spectrum planning.

What kind of impact the new policy is likely to have on the industry?

The new policy will benefit operators and internet service providers by easing

investment barriers through streamlined Right-of-Way (RoW) processes and deemed approvals, while supporting diversified access models like fixed wireless access, public Wi-Fi, and satellite connectivity. Monetisation prospects will grow via private 5G and CNPNs, backed by industrial low-latency applications, alongside stricter quality-of-service norms and transparent coverage metrics.

For satcom and NTN players, alignment with the Indian Space Policy, GSaaS enablement, SATCOM labs, and NTN–terrestrial convergence will unlock new business models. Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) will benefit from capex incentives, design-led support, mutual recognition arrangements and boosting local value addition. Startups, R&D, and security providers will see opportunities in technology readiness level funding, sandboxes, quantum-safe security, and AI-driven fraud detection, while consumers and enterprises gain from affordability, better coverage, and faster grievance resolution.

The draft policy sets a target to have Rs 1 lakh crore annual investments till 2030. Where will the money come from?

The draft NTP-2025 highlights several priority areas requiring sustained capital to achieve its 2030 ambitions. These include last-mile connectivity expansion through rural and urban network rollout, accelerated deployment of fixed wireless access, FTTH, improved indoor coverage, and BharatNet upgrades to connect village institutions. Further capital will be needed for domestic manufacturing zones, testing and certification facilities, export readiness, and enhanced network security. To finance these, the policy can target Rs 1 lakh crore annually from private sector Capex, public and blended finance via Digital Bharat Nidhi, and export/institutional capital, leveraging incentives and IPR-based funding to drive scale and innovation.

How will it prepare India for the 6G?

The policy positions India to take an early lead in 6G by aligning spectrum and standards' development from the outset. It outlines plans for timely release of IMT, mmWave, and sub-THz bands, backed by a dynamic national spectrum roadmap and active engagement in global standards development organisations to secure a meaningful share of 6G-related intellectual property. This is complemented by a strong R&D and talent pipeline, with funding for advanced 5G/6G research, regulatory sandboxes, THz experimentation, and initiatives such as the Bharat 6G Alliance and the Indian Institute of Telecom Technology (IIT2) aimed at creating a highly skilled workforce.

SCIENCE & ENVIRONMENT

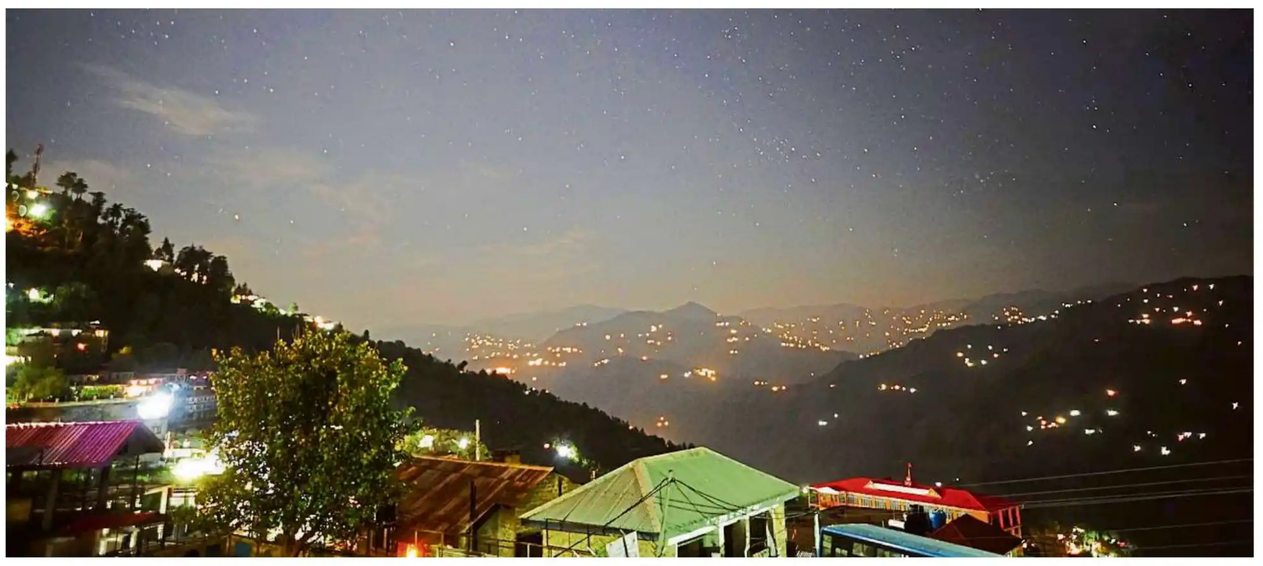
A newer way to store energy

Researchers have been developing reactors capable of storing summer heat and releasing it months later in winter, writes B K Singh

The power sector is a field that has been receiving significant attention across the globe, as energy demand has steadily increased. Various energy storage systems are being experimented with, and Strontium bromide hexahydrate (SrBr ·6H O) is a promising new material for thermochemical energy storage.

It has significant potential for heating homes in cold regions. This hygroscopic and deliquescent salt can store low-grade thermal energy, such as industrial waste heat and solar heat. It stores and releases energy through reversible hydration and dehydration reactions, operating effectively at temperatures below 100 °C.

At successive UN climate conferences, the global community has resolved to move away from fossil fuel dependency. Finding alternative energy sources is critical for human survival. In the domestic sector, heating, cooling, and hot water account for more than half of household energy use. While solar heat can exceed demand in summer, it often falls short in winter.



A new Indian design

At room temperature, SrBr ·6H O is a white, odourless crystalline solid. Its high energy density, chemical stability, low flammability, and non-explosive nature make it a strong candidate for safe thermal storage. However, direct contact can still cause irritation, and ingestion is harmful. While it is safer than many industrial chemicals, its production and disposal pose environmental challenges. Extraction of strontium (commonly from celestine ore) and bromine (often from brines or seawater) can cause ecological disruption, and manufacturing produces waste that requires careful management.

Researchers have been developing reactors capable of storing summer heat and releasing it months later in winter. SrBr ·6H O is a prime candidate for this seasonal storage approach.

A team from the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay and the National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS), Bengaluru, has developed a self-contained thermal storage unit comprising:

- A solar collector to capture heat in summer
- A reactor chamber filled with SrBr ·6H O
- An air circulation system to move hot or cold air through the reactor

The system is housed in a weatherproof casing designed for Himalayan conditions and insulated with glass wool. The study on reactor configuration and performance is peer-reviewed and published in scientific journals, namely *'Applied Thermal Engineering' and 'Renewable Energy'.*

A technology suitable for the Himalayas

The dehydration of SrBr ·6H O is endothermic—it absorbs heat in the process, whereas the hydration of SrBr is exothermic. When the reactor receives hot air during the summer months, SrBr2.6H2O changes to monoatomic SrBr2.H2O by absorbing heat. When winter arrives, the salt is hydrated and heat is released. Heat retention in nearly anhydrous salt (SrBr2·H2O) can last for several months and can be transported to cold places where it can be used for warming homes.

The hydrogen bond of the salt crystal that breaks in dehydration is made up in hydration, which corresponds to absorption and release of heat, respectively. The monohydrate is relatively stable for months and can be transported to remote cold regions before rehydration.

The technology is particularly suited to isolated Himalayan households that currently rely on diesel generators or firewood — both significant sources of greenhouse gases. The new reactor has not yet been commercialised or tested in homes, but the Indian Army is considering trials in high-altitude camps.

In laboratory tests, the team demonstrated six charge–discharge cycles with no loss in performance and estimates that the salt can last for around 600 cycles under controlled conditions. However, the study found that SrBr readily absorbs atmospheric moisture in humid environments, causing the salt structure to crumble. In that case, it cannot be used for 600 cycles. To mitigate this, the team recommends mixing SrBr with silica gel in a 3:1 ratio to maintain structural integrity.

Economic viability

Lead author Prof. Sandip Saha from IIT Bombay, Mechanical Engineering, suggests dehydrating the salt in sunny plains and transporting it to high-altitude areas for winter heating.

The Levelized Cost of Heat (LCOH) for their direct solar heating system is estimated at Rs 33–Rs 51 per kWh-thermal. Field trials in locations including Darjeeling, Dehradun, Shimla, Leh, and Manali showed the lowest LCOH in Leh at Rs 31 per kWh-thermal. In comparison, heat from diesel generators costs about Rs 50 per kWh-thermal, rising to Rs 78 when carbon penalties are included.

Why not just use solar panels? Prof. Rudrdip Majumdar from NIAS explains that this system stores heat directly, unlike photovoltaic panels, which convert sunlight into electricity and store it in batteries. In cold Himalayan nights, battery efficiency drops as chemical reactions slow, reducing output. Direct thermochemical storage avoids these losses and provides consistent heat.

While SrBr ·6H O offers many advantages, it can also contaminate soil and water, posing risks to ecosystems. Proper handling, worker training, and strict safety protocols are essential to minimise environmental exposure.

(The author is the retired chief of forests, Karnataka, and a science communicator)

DID YOU KNOW?

Mount Roraima: The 'lost world' on the earth

At the triple border point between Brazil, Venezuela, and Guyana, lies a rare plateau with almost vertical sides: 'Mount Roraima'. Often covered by a ring of clouds, its peak looks like an island floating in the sky.

The mountain towers 2,810 metres above the surrounding savanna, jutting out like a giant tabletop. Geologists call this kind of formation a "tepui," which means "house of the gods" in the language of the Pemon, the local Indigenous people. The Pemon believe tepuis to be sacred, and that Mount Roraima is the stump of a supernatural tree that held all the fruit and vegetables of the world until a mythical figure named Makunaima felled it. Mount Roraima is a flat-topped formation with crystal-clear pools, waterfalls and a unique ecosystem that has been isolated from the surrounding savanna for millions of years.

But scientists have another explanation for how Mount Roraima came to be. Tepuis are exclusively found in South America, and specifically in Venezuela and western Guyana, where they number more than 100. According to the Geological Society of London, tepuis are the remnants of a huge block of sandstone that formed in this region around 1.8 billion years ago as large sand dunes slowly solidified into rock.

Over the next 1.5 billion years, other types of rock accumulated on top of the sandstone, but these layers were eroded roughly 180 million years ago, according to the Geological Society. Wind and water then went to work on the sandstone, carving out the giant, steep-sided plateaus we see today, according to Geology Science. Finally, geologic uplift raised the plateaus to their current height, according to Geology Science.

Like other tepuis, Mount Roraima's summit harbours a "lost world" ecosystem that has been sheltered from the surrounding region for about 70 million to 90 million years, according to a 2012 Geological study. Much remains unknown about the way that tepui ecosystems have assembled and evolved.

Still, researchers estimate that a high proportion of the flora and fauna on the summits are endemic, meaning that they aren't found elsewhere. For example, about one-third of the vegetation found at the top of all tepuis, including carnivorous plants and orchids, is endemic, according to the World Wildlife Fund.

However, the 2012 study found that these ecosystems aren't completely isolated. The researchers analysed the DNA of four tree frog species living on separate tepuis to determine whether these species have had any contact with each other in the past 70 million years. The scientists discovered that the frogs shared a common ancestor as recently as 5.3 million years ago, suggesting that tree frogs — and perhaps other creatures as well — can migrate up and down the cliffs of tepui formations. It is undeniable that this geographical region on Earth, with its many wonders, attracts people to itself.

- SURENDRA PAI

INDEPENDENCE DAY: Prime minister announces next-gen weapon system to protect strategic, civilian sites

India to get 'Sudarshan Chakra' defence shield

KALYAN RAY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday announced that India will launch Mission Sudarshan Chakra — a powerful weapon to be developed in 10 years — to provide a security shield for important strategic and civilian installations, including hospitals, railway lines and centres of faith.

Addressing the nation from the ramparts of the Red Fort, Modi said, "The country will launch the Sudarshan Chakra Mission. The powerful weapon system will not only neutralise the enemy's attack but will also hit back at the enemy many times more."

While Modi didn't provide details about the nature of the weapon, sources said the PM might have hinted at an indigenous ballistic missile defence shield, which is under development.

"By 2035, all vital locations across the nation, including strategic and civilian areas, like hospitals, railways and centres of faith, will be given complete security cover through new platforms of technology. Whatever technology is used to attack us, ours must surpass it within the next 10 years," he said.

The PM named the weapon after Lord Krishna's Sudarshan Chakra, which was used to block sunlight and create darkness during the day so that Arjuna could kill Jayadratha in the epic battle mentioned in the Mahabharata.

Modi said the new-age Sudarshan Chakra would be a precision weapon, with scope for futuristic upgrades to ensure India remains one step ahead of its enemy. The entire system — from research and development to manufacturing — will be indigenous.

"There will be a system that calculates the future possibilities in terms of warfare and works out the strategy of Plus One. We will move forward towards developing a system for targeted, precise action through this Sudarshan Chakra," he said.

For over two decades, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has been working on a ballistic missile defence shield using Prithvi and Agni missiles to intercept enemy weapons at an exo-atmospheric altitude of 50-80 km or an endo-atmospheric elevation of up to 30 km.

In 2022, the Cabinet Committee on Security approved Project Kusha, under which the DRDO is developing an extended-range air defence system with three types of interceptors capable of neutralising incoming missiles at ranges of 150 km, 250 km and 400 km — similar in capability to the Russian-origin S-400 system.

Incidentally, the S-400, which played a critical role during Operation Sindoor, is known as Sudarshan Chakra within the Indian armed services.

While it is possible that Project Sudarshan Chakra, announced by the PM, will integrate more types of weapons and radars into a powerful air defence shield, the Union government has not provided any clarity.

Stung by US major General Electric's failure to supply F-404 engines for the home-grown Tejas Light Combat Aircraft, Modi also urged scientists to develop jet engines in India for fighter jets.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacts with students during the 79th Independence Day celebration at the Red Fort in New Delhi on Friday. PTI

'Biggest NGO in the world': Modi's rare praise for RSS

AMRITA MADHUKALYA
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday heaped praises on the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, the ideological parent of the BJP, during his Independence Day speech from the Red Fort. In a rare gesture of honour, he referred to the RSS as an NGO with a century of dedicated service to the nation.

"Today, I would like to proudly mention that 100 years ago, an organisation was born — Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh. (They boast over a) 100 years of service to the nation in what we can call a proud, golden chapter of our history."

This is one of the few times Modi has acknowledged the RSS, and it comes at a time when the ties between the RSS and BJP are speculated to have been strained. The delay in selecting the next BJP chief has also been attributed to a lack of consensus between the party and its ideological parent.

Modi also paid tributes to Bharatiya Jana Sangh founder Shyama Prasad Mookerjee. "Shyama Prasad Mookerjee was the first one to sacrifice his life for the country's constitution," he said.

Modi said RSS swayamsevaks have dedicated their lives to nation's welfare. "In a way, we can say RSS is the world's biggest NGO. It has a history of 100 years of dedication."

His comments carry significance since the party's ties with the RSS have been strained since the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, when RSS stepped away from lending any support to the BJP.

Oppn slams PM for 'glorifying' RSS

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Opposition on Friday pounded on Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his praise of RSS during his Independence Day speech, saying it is a "desperate attempt" to cling to power while "dishonouring" the memory of martyrs and the spirit of our freedom movement.

Congress General Secretary (Communications) Jairam Ramesh said the "most troubling element" of Modi's speech was his "name-checking" of the RSS, which was a "blatant breach of the spirit" of a constitutional, secular republic.

CPM General Secretary MA Baby said it was "deeply regrettable" that Modi, through his Independence Day speech, chose to praise an organisation with a "dubious historical record" and that had "no role whatsoever in these struggles."

Illegal migration: Modi announces demography mission

SUMIT PANDE
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Warning the nation of a "deliberate conspiracy" to change the demography, particularly in border areas, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced the formation of a High-Powered Demography Mission to address "the severe crisis in a time-bound manner".

"These infiltrators are snatching away the livelihoods of our youth. These infiltrators are targeting our sisters and daughters. This will not be tolerated. These infiltrators are misleading innocent tribals and seizing their lands," Modi said.

The announcement on the formation of the mission comes ahead of a bunch of Assembly elections slated for this year and the next, including Bihar, West Bengal and Assam, where the BJP is in a direct contest against the Opposition.

In West Bengal, the ruling Trinamool Congress has accused the BJP-ruled state governments of harassing the Bangla-speaking migrant population under the pretext of a crackdown on illegal immigrants. BJP's claim is that illegal immigration from Bangladesh and Myanmar has led to job loss.

In Assam, the BJP-led government has announced using a 1950 law to oust "illegal immigrants". The Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls, ahead of the Bihar polls, has already raised much political heat.

Speeches from Red Fort on Aug 15

PM Modi delivers longest Independence Day speech since 1947: Speech at 103 minutes

2014	2015	2016	2017
65 min	88 min	96 min	56 min
2018	**2019**	**2020**	**2021**
83 min	92 min	90 min	88 min
2022	**2023**	**2024**	
74 min	90 min	98 min	

PM Modi breaks Indira Gandhi's record by delivering **12 consecutive speeches from Red Fort**

First PM Jawaharlal Nehru delivered **17 I-Day speeches in a row**

Nehru's **first Independence Day speech** in 1947 was 72 min

Before Modi, the **longest I-Day speeches were of Nehru in 1947** and **IK Gujral in 1997**, delivering a speech in 71 minutes

Nehru and **Indira Gandhi** gave the **shortest speeches** at **14 minutes in 1954 and 1966**, respectively

Manmohan Singh's 2012 and 2013 speeches were only 32 and 35 minutes

AB Vajpayee's speeches in 2002 and 2003 were 25 and 30 minutes

Source: PTI

Indian farmers have sole right over its waters: PM on Indus

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said India and its farmers have the sole right over the country's share of Indus river waters and termed the Indus Water Treaty "unjust and one-sided."

In his Independence Day address, he said that "India has decided that blood and water cannot flow together. The people of the country now fully understand how unjust and one-sided the Indus Waters Treaty has been."

"The waters of rivers originating from Bharat are irrigating the fields of our enemies, while the farmers and the soil of our own nation remain thirsty. This was an agreement that has caused unimaginable loss to our farmers for the past seven decades."

"In the interest of the nation, this agreement is unacceptable to us," the prime minister asserted.

The Indus Water Treaty, brokered by the World Bank, has governed the use of the Indus River and its tributaries between India and Pakistan since 1960. India's decision to suspend the treaty follows the Pahalgam attack.

Outlining a road map for the future of agriculture, the prime minister said that the government has identified 100 underperforming agricultural districts to be brought on par with other farming regions through the PM Dhan-Dhanya Krishi Yojana.

Under the scheme, Modi said, the government will help farmers of these areas to compete with other farmers of India.

BJP flays Cong over Tytler's presence

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The BJP attacked the Congress on Friday for having 1984 riots accused Jagdish Tytler at the party's Independence Day function at Indira Bhawan in the presence of Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi.

Accusing the Gandhis of being "unapologetic", BJP IT Cell chief Amit Malviya posted on X, "Jagdish Tytler, the man who unleashed genocide on Sikhs at Rajiv Gandhi's behest, is once again seen alongside Rahul Gandhi at the Congress HQ. Some stains don't wash away, no matter how much time passes."

Delhi minister Maninder Sirsa said, "For Congress, the killing of thousands of Sikhs in 1984 is not a blot, it's a badge they wear with pride. Rahul Gandhi standing shoulder-to-shoulder with Jagdish Tytler is like Hitler posing with Heinrich Himmler, the mastermind of the Holocaust."

BJP leader Radhika Khera said Gandhi was absent from the Red Fort event but stood alongside Tytler.

Kharge slams BJP's 'extreme immorality' to stay in power

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Mallikarjun Kharge during Independence Day celebrations in Delhi. PTI

Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge on Friday accused the BJP of being willing to indulge in "extreme immorality" to remain in power, and claimed that a "new trend" of sending a new voters list on the eve of polls in the guise of an "additional list" has emerged. He called it a "conspiracy by opponents" as they cannot verify the names owing to a paucity of time.

He also claimed that large-scale irregularities, including the deletion of voters supporting the Opposition during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR), have come to light.

Kharge said the Election Commission's impartiality can be judged from the fact that it was "not willing to reveal" whose votes were being deleted and on what basis. Thanking the Supreme Court for "listening to people's voice" and directing the EC to make such details public, he said the "most astonishing thing" is that the ruling BJP has no objection to around 65 lakh votes being deleted.

"A new trend has emerged: on the day before the election, a new voter list is sent under the name of an 'additional list', which the candidate cannot verify due to lack of time. This is the conspiracy of our opponents," he said.

Referring to Rahul Gandhi's press meet on voters' list manipulation in a Karnataka seat, he said similar evidence is emerging in many other seats, where the Congress had a lead in all Assembly segments except one. "We have the same apprehension regarding the Maharashtra results. The party is closely studying such seats, and this will be presented to the people at the right time," he said.

Students in traditional attire take part in the Independence Day celebration in Bikaner. PTI

LoP in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi during the Independence Day celebration. PTI

President Droupadi Murmu pays homage at the National War Memorial in New Delhi. PTI

Oppn sees red as poster has Savarkar above Gandhi

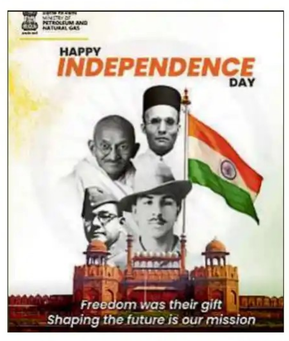
SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

An Independence Day poster by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, featuring Hindutva ideologue VD Savarkar prominently above Mahatma Gandhi, Bhagat Singh and Subhash Chandra Bose, triggered controversy, with the Opposition accusing the government of glorifying a person accused in the assassination of the Father of the Nation.

The image posted by the ministry on 'X' featured Gandhi, Bose, Singh and Savarkar, Red Fort, the tricolour and the Ashoka Chakra.

Congress General Secretary (Organisation) KC Venugopal said it was an Orwellian image, elevating a British mercy petitioner like Savarkar over Gandhi, and eliminating Jawaharlal Nehru and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. It shows "contempt for our freedom fighters".

"Every Independence Day, the Modi-led BJP makes it a point to distort history and make heroes out of traitors... What else can one expect from those whose forefathers collaborated with the British to sow the seeds of division and hatred that haunts us to this very day?" he said.



The image posted by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

CPM leader John Brittas said the "deliberate elevation" of Savarkar over Gandhi is "not a coincidence but a calculated act".

Congress Media and Publicity Department chairman Pawan Khera said the BJP was now glorifying the Mahatma's killer, as if assassinating him were not enough. "This, according to Minister Hardeep S Puri, is the spirit of Independence Day — unity between the killer and the killed," he said.

J&K CM to launch signature campaign for statehood

SRINAGAR, DHNS: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday announced to launch a signature campaign to demand the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood, a day after the Supreme Court urged petitioners to be "mindful of ground realities" such as the Pahalgam terror attack, while pressing the Union government on the issue.

Addressing the Independence Day gathering here, Abdullah said the campaign would cover all 90 Assembly segments over the next eight weeks—the timeframe given by the SC to the Centre to respond to the statehood plea.

"From today, we will go door to door for a signature campaign on the restoration of statehood. If people are not ready to sign the document, I will accept defeat," he declared.

J&K cloudburst: Toll rises to 60, hundreds trapped

ZULFIKAR MAJID
SRINAGAR, DHNS

Rescue work underway at Kishtwar district in Jammu and Kashmir on Friday. PTI

Rescue teams continued to battle treacherous terrain and swollen streams on Friday, a day after a sudden, intense cloudburst over Chosoti — the last motorable point on the Machail Mata pilgrimage route in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district — triggered flash floods that left a trail of destruction.

Officials confirmed that at least 60 people, including two personnel of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), lost their lives in the calamity.

"More than 300 people have been rescued so far, about 50 of them in critical condition," a senior disaster management officer said. "However, over 250 are still missing, and the search continues under extremely challenging conditions."

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah confirmed the death toll and warned that the number could rise as rescuers comb through debris downstream.

Authorities have deployed multiple teams from the SDRF, NDRF and Army engineering units, along with helicopters, to ferry survivors and the injured to safer locations.

Local residents, who joined the rescue efforts, recounted scenes of chaos. "People were screaming, holding on to whatever they could. Within minutes, everything was gone," said Ramesh, a shopkeeper.

PM Narendra Modi spoke with the CM and Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and assured them of all help.

Jharkhand Education Minister Ramdas Soren dies at 62

RANCHI, PTI: Jharkhand Education Minister Ramdas Soren died on Friday, JMM national spokesperson Kunal Sarangi said. He was 62.

Ramdas Soren

Soren was undergoing treatment at a private hospital in Delhi, where he was admitted on August 2.

"State Education Minister Ramdas Soren, who was undergoing treatment at a hospital in Delhi, is no more," Sarangi said.

Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren condoled his death.

Hemant Soren, in a post on X, wrote, "Ramdas Da (brother) should not have left us like this. Last greetings to Dada..."

Surgeon found guilty of practising 'black magic' in court

NEW DELHI, DHNS: A Delhi court recently held a surgeon guilty of intentionally insulting public servants and interrupting court proceedings for allegedly indulging in "black magic" in the courtroom, and sentenced him to imprisonment until the court rose after he tendered an apology and expressed remorse for his actions.

"This is very shocking and surprising that the present accused, Dr Chander Vibhas, who is stated to be a surgeon by profession and belonging to the educated and elite class, has acted in such an unreasonable manner and created an interruption in court proceedings," said Additional Sessions Judge Shefali Barnala Tandon.

Rice found under dais

On August 11, the court was informed by the staff that the accused had thrown some rice under the dais, creating a scare among those present, including the counsel who suspected it to be "black magic".

Upon being asked, the accused said he had some rice in his hands which had just fallen down. However, he failed to explain why he was carrying the rice while entering the court and during the court proceedings.

The judge was constrained to take cognisance of the offence under Section 267 of the BNS against the accused since the court's proceedings were halted for about 15-20 minutes, and the offence was triable by the very court where the offence had been committed.

The court pointed out that BNS Section 267 was meant to ensure that the courts could function without harassment or disturbance, preserving both the order of proceedings and the authority of law.

"If the actions of the accused go unchecked, it will erode the court's ability to function," it said.

Uddhav, Raj will contest civic polls together, says Raut

MUMBAI, DHNS: Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut on Friday said his party and Raj Thackeray-led Maharashtra Navnirman Sena will contest the coming civic elections in Mumbai and elsewhere together.

Over the past few months, Uddhav and Raj have been working on a political alliance across the state.

Discussions with the MNS for forming an alliance are underway, Raut said. "The Thackeray brothers will win elections together in all places, including Mumbai, Thane, Nashik, Kalyan, Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar," he said.

The BJP, however, dismissed his statement. Pravin Darekar, a state BJP legislator, said it was unclear whether the two Thackeray cousins had held any talks or it was all Raut's "guesswork".

SC Collegium can't tell HCs which candidates to recommend: CJI

Emphasises that both are constitutional courts and neither is above the other

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Chief Justice of India (CJI) B R Gavai on Friday said the Supreme Court Collegium could not tell a High Court Collegium to recommend a particular name for judgeship, noting that both were constitutional courts and neither was above the other.

Speaking at a Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) function organised on the 79th Independence Day, the CJI was responding to SCBA president Vikas Singh, who urged the SC Collegium to also consider lawyers practising in the apex court for judgeship in HCs, despite the fact that they had not practised there.

As for the demand for a wider base for consideration, he emphasised that the Collegium had always been alive to the SCBA's needs.

"We are aware that the lawyers coming from different backgrounds perform very well, and their services should be utilised for the various HCs. And I must say that I and my senior colleagues have been successful in getting the names of some candidates practising here not only recommended to various HCs, but also some who have already been appointed over the years," he said.

"Ultimately, even the SC Collegium cannot dictate to the HC Collegium to recommend the names," he said. Noting that one wasn't above the other, he said that, therefore, the first call had to be taken by the HC Collegium.

"We only recommend names to the HC Collegium and request that they consider them. Only after their satisfaction, the names come to the SC... We find that this practice is really helpful. After interacting with them for 10-15 minutes or half an hour, we can find out how suitable they would be to contribute to society," he said.

The CJI also stressed judges' and lawyers' solemn duty, which was to actively uphold and embody the fundamental values enshrined in the Constitution.

"We are entrusted with the responsibility to promote, protect, imbibe, and defend the ideals of liberty, equality, and fraternity, the very principles that form the bedrock of our democratic society," he said.

The CJI noted that this responsibility had an even deeper dimension for judges.

"Beyond the letter of the law, we must strive to give a broader, more purposive interpretation to the values of the Constitution. We must interpret the law in ways that expand freedom, protect the rights of the marginalised, and strengthen the rule of law," he said.

Nagaland Guv La Ganesan dies in Chennai at 80

GUWAHATI, DHNS: Nagaland Governor La Ganesan died in a private hospital in his home city Chennai on Friday, where he was recently admitted following a fall and a head injury. He was 80.

An official at the Raj Bhavan in Kohima said Ganesan breathed his last at 6.23 pm. The official said he fell down at his home in Chennai on August 8, following which he was taken to the hospital, and had been in the ICU since then.

La Ganesan

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah were among many prominent persons who condoled Ganesan's demise.

Ganesan, a senior BJP leader and an RSS activist from Tamil Nadu, was appointed the 21st Governor of Nagaland in February 2023.

As Governor, Ganesan continued his efforts to find a solution to the decades-long Naga conflict and took many steps to check drug abuse, particularly among the youth.

No automatic arrest in all cases where anticipatory bail interfered with: SC

NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court has emphasised that interference in a matter where a person comes before the court seeking anticipatory bail does not, and should not, automatically lead to the presumption that custody would be required and they would be arrested.

A bench of Justices Ahsanuddin Amanullah and S V N Bhatti said that the arrest is the discretion of the investigating agency, depending on the circumstances and the conduct of the accused.

"The investigating agency is obliged to take an objective view on the requirement of custody of an accused without any bias, ill-will, or any other extraneous consideration and purely based on material," the court said.

It clarified the position of law in its recent judgment while allowing a plea by the Andhra Pradesh government led by Additional Solicitor General S V Raju and senior advocate Sidharth Luthra against the High Court's order, which granted anticipatory bail to former CID chief and senior IPS officer, N Sanjay.

The officer was accused of making a payment of Rs 59 lakh to a contractor without fulfilling contractual obligations of developing a website and a mobile application, when he worked as DG, fire services. The 1996-batch IPS officer was also accused of making a similar payment during his stint as CID chief.

The bench said, "It is true that custodial interrogation is considered a last resort, to be adopted when the investigation is impeded by deliberate lack of cooperation or by factors which militate against upholding the law, or against public interest."

Setting aside the HC's January 30 order, the court directed the investigating agency to act in a non-partisan manner, focusing on the actual merits of the case, and to conclude the investigation at the earliest.

The court, however, allowed the officer four weeks' time to surrender.

Commercial surrogacy racket busted in Hyderabad

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

Close on the heels of the Srushti IVF clinic case in which baby-selling trade in the guise of IVF treatment was exposed, Cyberabad police on Friday had busted a major racket involving commercial surrogacy and illegal human egg trading.

All eight accused, including seven women, have been arrested from Hyderabad.

The accused were exploiting the desperation of infertile couples for illegal monetary gain. The ongoing investigation revealed that the prime accused, Narreddula Laxmi Reddy, had earlier worked as an egg donor and surrogate mother.

Using her experience and network of contacts with other agents, fertility clinics, and centres, she began recruiting women to act as egg donors or surrogate mothers and referred them to fertility centres. For each successful procedure, she collected substantial amounts of money.

She targeted financially vulnerable women, persuading them to donate eggs or become surrogates, and kept them at her residence, collecting additional maintenance charges from the hospitals.

Cyberabad DCP said that Laxmi Reddy's son, Narender Reddy, a Chemical Engineering graduate from JNTU, assisted her in running this illegal business.

Police seized Rs 6.47 lakh, a laptop, promissory notes, and non-judicial bond papers from Narender Reddy and Laxmi.

Kerala film body gets first woman chief

KOCHI, PTI: In a first in the history of the Association of Malayalam Movie Artists (AMMA), women were elected to its top leadership positions.

Actors Shwetha Menon and Kukku Parameswaran were elected as president and general secretary of the body respectively. Besides them, Ansiba Hasan was elected as joint secretary and Lakshmi Priya as the vice president.

MISCELLANY

◆ COMICS ◆

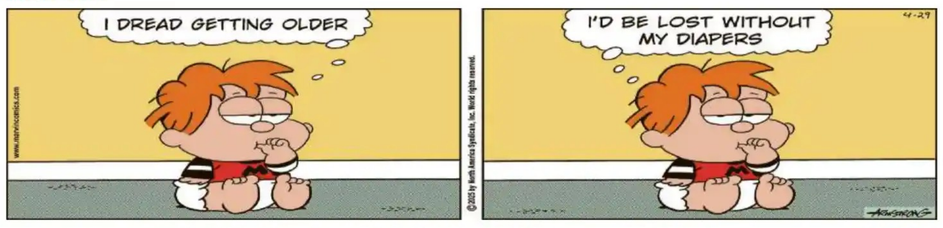
Blondie

HAVE YOU ACCIDENTALLY BEEN INJURED AT WORK?
ANOTHER LAWYER COMMERCIAL...
YOU COULD BE ENTITLED TO A BIG, FAT SETTLEMENT!
LISTEN TO THEM JUST TRYING TO DIG UP DIRT
SO TRUE
HI, I'M CLYDE...I FELL OUT OF MY CHAIR AT WORK WHILE NAPPING, AND BOY, DID I GET PAID BIG
OH BOY, PAY DIRT!!
SETTLE DOWN, HONEY

Beetle Bailey

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF LT. FUZZ?
HE'S AN OBSEQUIOUS SYCOPHANT
I HEARD THAT!
GREG + MORT WALKER
WHAT DOES IT MEAN?
ER, IT'S A COMPLIMENT, SIR

Marvin



Hagar The Horrible

WE'RE OFF TO THE VILLAGE PLAY-HOUSE, MOTHER! WILL YOU BE ALL RIGHT ALONE?
I'LL BE FINE, HELGA! DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME AND MY BAD BACK, SORE HIP, BUNIONS AND DIZZY SPELLS!
JUST GO AHEAD AND ENJOY THE PLAY!

Peanuts

MY GRANDFATHER LOVES BOWLING...HE WON A TURKEY TOURNAMENT YESTERDAY
IT WAS THE FIRST TOURNAMENT HE'S EVER WON..
THAT'LL MAKE THE TURKEY TASTE EXTRA GOOD, WON'T IT?
NO, HE'S HAVING IT BRONZED!

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

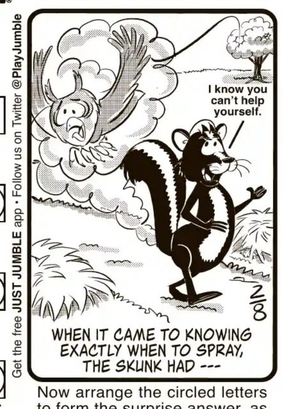
Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

OSYBS

SKIKO

NWUDIN

GHILPT



Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

"___ ___ - ___ ___ ___ ___ ___"

(Answers Monday)

Yesterday's Jumbles: FROND BLANK WHEEZE OSPREY
Answer: The two sixes appeared in the math equation on the — DOZEN'S BEHALF

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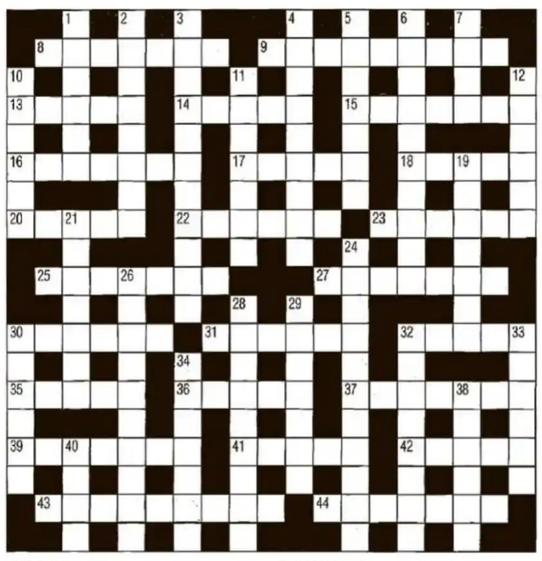
CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 4001



ACROSS
8 Play with songs (7)
9 Pilot's safety device (9)
13 Pinafore (5)
14 Vice (5)
15 Kettledrums (7)
16 Police, informally (3,4)
17 Benefactor (5)
18 Greek letter (5)
20 Soil (5)
22 Cargo ship (6)
23 Flower (6)
25 Fruit (7)
27 Quiet (7)
30 Dessert (6)
31 Fault (6)
32 Navigation aid (5)
35 Reverie (5)
36 Pick-me-up (5)
37 Curl (7)
39 Supernatural (7)
41 Odds of 1 to 1 (5)
42 Blemish (5)
43 Competitor (9)
44 Melodic (7)

DOWN
1 Rotten (6)
2 Monstrous (8)
3 Sum (11)
4 Wood-worker (9)
5 Power source (7)
6 Ape (10)
7 Sicilian volcano (4)
10 Conditional release (6)
11 Young pilchard (7)
12 Insect (6)
19 Aquatic bird (7)
21 Cold-blooded creature (7)
24 Scenic (11)
26 Light (10)
28 Wandered (9)
29 Master (7)
30 Boredom (6)
32 Ominous (8)
33 Sailor (6)
34 Remaining (7)
38 Sporting association (6)
40 Black bird (4)

CRYPTIC

ACROSS
8 Interrupt a burglary (5-2)
9 So then going to pieces when one is about to win (2,3,4)
13 "Plenty of booze," the policeman put in (5)
14 Avail yourself of the plane coming back, too... (5)
15 ...and for the flight back, indulge yourself again (7)
16 Irritate from the beginning (7)
17 Supports when one isn't working (5)
18 Transport direct (5)
20 Showing a dirty film (5)
22 "The Globe" is turned, first, into a restaurant (6)
23 Fill up the ward (6)
25 How the hungry slimmer's resolve not to eat it may? (7)
27 Growing, as I shamble into the arena (7)
30 Brave little Penny - and fortunate, too (6)
31 There's said to be a market for the thing (6)
32 The super with the gun is outside again (5)
35 After a time, enquires about jobs (5)
36 Belts will be found in the men's-wear department (5)
37 Pleasant, but would I be up to it? (7)
39 Because of the wild animal, don't (7)
41 Seeks for beauty (5)
42 It makes a delightful starter, blended and frozen (5)
43 Is a traveller and earns in the region of (4,5)
44 Have I any worry about now? Not at all (2,2,3)

DOWN
1 "Appropriate for a salesman," take back (6)
2 It looks ornamental but the fasteners are irritating (8)
3 Are just what's needed for a bird feeding its young (4,3,4)
4 Pen something to send with the letter (9)
5 Love, child, is her undoing (7)
6 Laughing at isn't funny, it's irritating (2,8)
7 I'll say it's not accessible by car (4)
10 Having approved of, handed over to (6)
11 The tail end of daybreak on the mountain (7)
12 The attitude and the way the cane is twirled (6)
19 Plan to get a c-cooker (7)
21 Comes out and talks right through (7)
24 Getting the hackles up, which is frightening? (4-7)
26 Forces one to feel it isn't silly (5,5)
28 Not in the pink - blue (3-6)
29 The chap with the child I accommodated in a splendid home (7)
30 Disgusted, refuse to carry any further (3,3)
32 Continuation of the shenanigans (6-2)
33 In the end, do your best to contain (6)
34 Put it down to being a writer (7)
38 Song about everything being rotten (6)
40 Pipe up "They're herbivores" (4)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12226

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 1, Snoop 6, Ran-CH 9, Biggles 10, Write 11, A-tom's 12, Hindi 13, Mission 15, Pub 17, Acne 18, Pleas-E 19, Billy 20, Esprit 22, Sti-R 24, See 25, Diamond 26, Chain 27, Bal-OO 28, P-laid 29, Spani-el 30, Heats 31, (Wat) Tyler.
DOWN: 2, Nor-DIC 3, Obtus-e 4, Pie 5, A-gain 6, Re-adi-ly 7, Asti 8, Camp-US 12, H-Op. it 13, MA-res. 14, SN-ipe 15, Panto(mime) 16, B-E-ard 18, Plain 19, Bishops 21, Sedate 22, Smelly 23, Incite 25, Diana 26, C-OS-t. 28, (whip-)Pet.

EASY
ACROSS: 1, Cedar 6, Board 9, Samovar 10, Adopt 11, Reign 12, Tongs 13,Tracker 15, Sit 17, Rent 18, Divine 19, Ashen 20, Palace 22, Ages 24, Eve 25, Athlete 26, Heads 27, Snoop 28, Lurid 29, Stagger 30, Feats 31,Tease.
DOWN: 2, Endure 3, Aspect 4, Rat 5, Donor 6, Bargain 7, Ores 8, Regain 12,Tense 13,Tripe 14, Angle 15, Singe 16,Tense 18, Dents 19, Accepts 21, Avenue 22, Allure 23, Ethics 25, Adage 26, Host 28, Let.

◆SU-DO-KU-6677◆

6			9	5				
9			2		1	6		
	8						9	5
1	9			2		3	7	
2								6
	4	5		3			2	9
7	1						3	
		4	8		5			7
				7	2			8

easy

SOLUTION TO 6676

4	9	2	1	8	6	5	3	7
7	8	6	9	5	3	2	4	1
5	3	1	4	7	2	6	8	9
1	2	3	5	6	4	9	7	8
9	4	8	2	3	7	1	5	6
6	7	5	8	9	1	3	2	4
8	6	7	3	1	5	4	9	2
3	1	4	7	2	9	8	6	5
2	5	9	6	4	8	7	1	3

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

SCRABBLE™

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U1 I1 D2 T1 L1 F4 U1 — Triple Word Score
I1 I1 A1 S1 S1 D2 T1
A1 E1 U1 L1 E1 U1 G2 — 4th Letter Double
T1 O1 I1 A1 P3 R1 T1 — Double Word Score

RACK 1
RACK 2
RACK 3
RACK 4

PAR SCORE 110-120
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

T1 H4 R1 I1 V4 E1 D2 — RACK 1 = 64
C3 L1 A1 M3 O1 R1 — RACK 2 = 30
G2 I1 R1 A1 F4 F4 E1 — RACK 3 = 78
M3 A1 R1 S1 H4 A1 L1 — RACK 4 = 62

PAR SCORE 150-160 — JUDD'S TOTAL 234

HITORI-3131

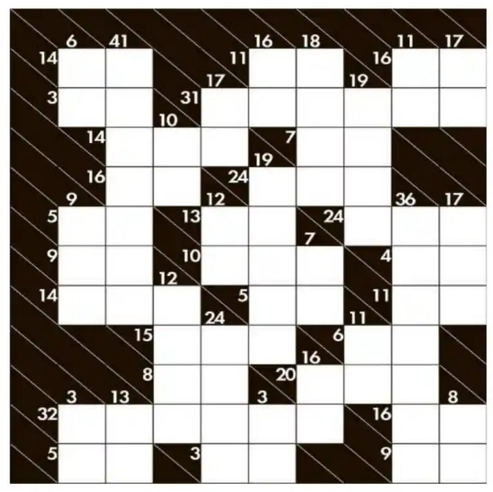
4	2	2	4	5	4	1	8
2	7	6	3	1	8	5	6
8	3	1	3	4	2	6	6
4	1	5	5	3	7	6	2
6	4	8	5	2	5	2	3
4	8	4	6	7	4	2	4
5	3	7	2	8	6	3	4
3	6	4	1	4	4	7	4

SOLUTION TO 3130

7	■	3	1	5	8	■	4
4	3	7	■	6	2	1	8
■	1	■	5	2	6	4	■
5	■	2	6	1	■	3	7
8	5	4	7	■	1	2	6
3	4	6	■	7	■	8	1
2	■	8	3	4	7	5	■
1	2	■	4	8	3	6	5

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

KAKURO- 3131



SOLUTION TO 3130

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3648

■	1	2	8					■
	7	9	4	1			■	
	5	■		9		■	2	
			■		■			
1			2	■		3		9
	8		■		4	7		
		5	6			■		
	■					■		
2	4							■

SOLUTION TO 3647

1	9	5	8	7	4	6	3	2
2	8	4	3	5	6	9	1	7
7	6	3	9	1	2	8	5	4
9	4	7	6	8	5	3	2	1
8	5	2	1	4	3	7	6	9
3	1	6	7	2	9	5	4	8
4	7	9	5	6	1	2	8	3
5	3	1	2	9	8	4	7	6
6	2	8	4	3	7	1	9	5

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

Sexual violence in conflicts worldwide increased by 25% last year: UN

Report's blacklist names 63 government and non-government parties in a dozen countries

UNITED NATIONS, AP

Sexual violence in conflicts worldwide increased by 25 per cent last year, with the highest number of cases in the Central African Republic, Congo, Haiti, Somalia and South Sudan, according to a UN report.

Secretary-General Antonio Guterres' annual report said more than 4,600 people survived sexual violence in 2024, with armed groups carrying out the majority of the abuse but some by government forces. He stressed that the UN-verified figures don't reflect the global scale and prevalence of these crimes.

The report's blacklist names 63 government and non-government parties in a dozen countries suspected of committing or being responsible for rape and other forms of sexual violence in conflict, including Hamas militants, whose attack in Israel on October 7, 2023, sparked the war in Gaza.

Over 70 per cent of those listed have appeared on the report's blacklist annex for five years or more without creating steps to prevent the violence, the UN chief said.

UN warns Israel

For the first time, the report includes two parties that have been notified the UN has "credible information" that could put them on next year's blacklist if they don't take preventive actions: Israel's military and security forces over allegations of sexual abuse of Palestinians primarily in prisons and detention, and Russian forces and affiliated armed groups against Ukrainian prisoners of war.

Israeli UN Ambassador Danny Danon, who circulated a letter Tuesday from Guterres about the country's forces being put on notice, said the allegations "are steeped in biased publications."

"The UN must focus on the shocking war crimes and sexual violence of Hamas and the release of all hostages," he said.

Russia's UN mission said it had no comment on the secretary-general's warning.

The 34-page report said "conflict-related sexual violence" refers to rape, sexual slavery, forced prostitution, forced pregnancy, forced abortion, forced sterilisation, forced marriage and other forms of sexual violence. The majority of victims are women and girls.

"In 2024, proliferating and escalating conflicts were marked by widespread conflict-related sexual violence, amid record levels of displacement and increased militarization," Guterres said. "Sexual violence continued to be used as a tactic of war, torture, terrorism and political repression, while multiple and overlapping political, security and humanitarian crises deepened."

Sexual violence toll

The UN says women and girls were attacked in their homes, on roads and while trying to earn a living, with victims ranging in age from 1 to 75. Reports of summary executions of victims after rape persisted in Congo and Myanmar, it said.

In an increasing number of places, the report said armed groups "used sexual violence as a tactic to gain and consolidate control over territory and lucrative natural resources."

WORLD AT A GLANCE

Britain's Prime Minister Keir Starmer (C) pushes veteran Ron Gumley in a wheelchair as he walks with his wife Victoria (R)after a national service of remembrance at the National Memorial Arboretum in Alrewas, on Friday, to mark the 80th anniversary of Victory over Japan Day. AFP

Putin hails India's 'well-deserved authority' in global affairs

▶ Russian President Vladimir Putin on Friday praised India's "well-deserved authority" in global affairs, highlighting its active role in addressing key international issues, reports PTI from Moscow.

In his Independence Day messages to President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Putin also underlined Russia's commitment to strengthening the "special privileged strategic partnership" between the two nations.

"India enjoys well-deserved authority in the world arena and actively participates in resolving the most important issues on the international agenda," he said.

"We value our relations of special privileged strategic partnership with India," Putin said.

The Russian president exuded confidence that through joint efforts, Russia and India will continue to comprehensively increase constructive bilateral cooperation in various areas.

"This fully meets the interests of our friendly peoples and is in line with strengthening security and stability at the regional and global levels," Putin said.

'Semiconductor tariffs soon'

▶ US President Donald Trump said on Friday he plans to announce tariffs on steel and semiconductors in the coming weeks, reports AFP from Washington.

"I'll be setting tariffs next week and the week after, on steel and, I would say, chips. Chips and semiconductors, we'll be setting sometime next week, the week after," Trump said onboard Air Force One as he headed to Alaska for a summit with Russian President Vladimir Putin. Trump said the levy rate would be "lower at the beginning" but "very high after a certain period of time," as a way to encourage businesses to relocate operations to the US. The president said his policy would prompt firm in key industries to relocate in order to "beat tariff".

A car burns during the wildfire, in Meda, Portugal, on Friday. REUTERS

Over 199 killed in Pak flashfloods

▶ Landslides and flash floods triggered by heavy monsoon rains across northern Pakistan have killed at least 199 people in the past 24 hours, national and local officials said on Friday, reports AFP from Bajaur.

Of those killed, 180 were recorded in the mountainous Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, where one resident likened the disaster to "doomsday".

Another nine people were killed in Pakistan-administered Kashmir, along with five in the northern Gilgit-Baltistan region, the National Disaster Management Authority said.

Most were killed in flash floods and collapsing houses, with the dead including 19 women and 17 children. At least 28 others were injured.

Another five people, including two pilots, were killed when a helicopter crashed.

German govt sued over deportation

▶ German rights groups took to the courts Friday on behalf of Afghans who were offered refuge by Berlin but are now caught between Chancellor Friedrich Merz's immigration crackdown and a wave of deportations from Pakistan, reports AFP from Berlin.

Refugee support groups filed cases against Foreign Minister Johann Wadephul and Interior Minister Alexander Dobrindt, accusing them of "abandonment and failure to render assistance" to Afghans who were previously promised asylum in Germany.

A convoy of Taliban security personnel carry a dummy yellow canister, intended to contain homemade explosives, as they celebrate the fourth anniversary of their takeover of Afghanistan in Kabul on Friday. AFP

Trump says tariffs on India prompted Russia to seek talks with US

New Delhi reiterates it continues to buy Russian oil in national interest

NEW YORK/WASHINGTON, PTI

US President Donald Trump has claimed that the tariffs imposed on India for purchasing oil from Russia have influenced Moscow's decision to seek a meeting with Washington, as the country was losing its "second largest customer".

The comments come ahead of Trump's high-profile meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin, scheduled for Friday in Anchorage, Alaska.

In an interview with Fox News on Thursday, Trump said, "I think everything has an impact," and claimed that when he told India that "we're going to charge you, because you're dealing with Russia and oil purchases", it "essentially took them out of buying oil from Russia". "And then they (Russia) called, and they wanted to meet. We're going to see what the meeting means. But certainly, when you lose your second largest customer, and you're probably going to lose your first largest customer, I think that probably has a role.

"India was the second largest, and getting pretty close to China. China is the largest (purchaser of Russian oil)," the US president said.

India on Thursday said it has not halted oil purchases from Russia in response to the US President's tariff threat and continues to buy based solely on economic considerations.

Trump last week announced an additional 25% tariff on US imports from India -- raising the overall duty to 50%. The tariffs will come into effect from August 27.

AS Sahney, Chairman of Indian Oil Corporation, the country's largest oil firm, has clarified that there is "no pause" on Russian oil imports, and India's intent to continue buying Russian oil remains unchanged.

US President Donald Trump. REUTERS FILE

Tariffs 'pushed' New Delhi into Beijing-Moscow axis: Bolton

Tariffs imposed on India by US President Donald Trump for purchases of Russian oil may have pushed New Delhi further into the Beijing-Moscow axis and this lack of focus by Washington is an "unforced error", a former top White House official, John Bolton said.

Tariffing India won't stop Putin: House Foreign Affairs panel

NEW YORK/WASHINGTON, PTI: Imposing tariffs on India will not stop Russian President Vladimir Putin or address Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the House Foreign Affairs Committee Democrats said on Friday.

The committee's post on X came in response to a statement by US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent that if "things don't go well" between US President Donald Trump and Putin at their Alaska summit meeting, then secondary sanctions on India for purchasing Russian oil could go up.

"Tariffing India won't stop Putin. If Trump really wanted to address Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine, maybe punish Putin and give Ukraine the military aid it needs. Everything else is smoke and mirrors," the House Foreign Affairs Committee Democrats said.

Bessent, in an interview to Bloomberg on Wednesday, said, "I think everyone has been frustrated with President Putin. We expected that he would come to the table in a more fulsome way. It looks like he may be ready to negotiate."

"And we put secondary tariffs on the Indians for buying Russian oil. And I could see, if things don't go well, then sanctions or secondary tariffs could go up," he added.

REDISTRICTING PUSH

California Governor Gavin Newsom, along with local congressional representatives, state officials and supporters, speaks as he announces the redrawing of California's congressional maps, calling on voters to approve a ballot measure, in response to a similar move in Texas being supported by US President Donald Trump, in Los Angeles, California. REUTERS

US capital sues Trump govt over police takeover

Attorney General demands immediate stay on Bondi's order

WASHINGTON, AFP

The attorney general for the US capital Washington has sued Donald Trump's administration over what he called a "hostile takeover" of the city's police force, which the Republican president said was necessary to fight violent crime.

Earlier this week, Trump placed the capital's Metropolitan Police under federal government control while also sending the National Guard onto the city's streets. Then Attorney General Pam Bondi issued an order to install a hand-picked official as temporary police commissioner.

Federal law governing the capital "does not authorize this brazen usurpation of the District's authority over its own government," Attorney General Brian Schwalb wrote in a filing lodged in federal court.

Schwalb has asked for an immediate stay on Bondi's order.

The government's actions "go well beyond the bounds of the President's limited authority and instead seek a hostile takeover of MPD," Schwalb said in a statement on social media.

"This is an affront to the dignity and autonomy of the 700,000 Americans who call DC home."

Unlike the 50 states, Washington operates under a unique relationship with the federal government that limits its autonomy and grants Congress extraordinary control over local matters.

Since the mid-1970s, the Home Rule Act has allowed residents to elect a mayor and a city council, although Congress still controls the city's budget.

The overwhelmingly Democratic city faces allegations from Republican politicians that it is overrun by crime, plagued by homelessness and financially mismanaged.

But data from Washington police show significant drops in violent crime between 2023 and 2024, although that was coming off the back of a post-pandemic surge.

US Prez hopes to 'save' Hong Kong democrat Jimmy Lai

WASHINGTON, REUTERS: US President Donald Trump on Thursday said he would see what he could do to help "save" detained Hong Kong media tycoon Jimmy Lai, even though Chinese President Xi Jinping would not be "thrilled."

"I'm going to do everything I can to save him," Trump told Fox News Radio's "The Brian Kilmeade Show" in an interview. "We'll see what we can do ... we're going to do everything we can."

Lai, 77, has pleaded not guilty to charges under Hong Kong's national security law of conspiracy to collude with foreign forces, as well as to a separate charge of conspiracy to publish seditious material. He has been held in solitary confinement for more than 1,500 days since December 2020.

Liu Pengyu, the spokesperson for China's embassy in Washington, said Lai had been "a key orchestrator and participant in anti-China, destabilizing activities in Hong Kong." "We strongly oppose external forces using judicial cases as a pretext to interfere in China's internal affairs or to smear and undermine Hong Kong's rule of law," he said.

Trump has said he would raise Lai's case as part of negotiations with China over trade and tariffs.

South Korea Prez vows to build 'military trust' with North

SEOUL, AFP

South Korean President Lee Jae Myung vowed Friday to "respect" North Korea's political system and build "military trust", a day after Pyongyang said it had no interest in improving relations with Seoul.

Lee has pledged to reach out to the nuclear-armed North and pursue dialogue without preconditions since his election in June -- a reversal from his hawkish predecessor.

Speaking at an event marking the anniversary of liberation from Japanese rule, Lee said the South Korean government "will take consistent measures to substantially reduce tensions and restore trust" with the North.

"We affirm our respect for the North's current system," said Lee, adding Seoul had "no intention of engaging in hostile acts". "I hope that North Korea will reciprocate our efforts to restore trust and revive dialogue," he said. "North and South are not enemies."

Lee's speech comes a day after North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's sister, Kim Yo Jong, said the North has "no will to improve relations" with the South.

She also denied reports that North Korea was removing propaganda loudspeakers.

The South's military said in June that the two countries had halted propaganda broadcasts along the demilitarised zone, adding last week that it had detected North Korean troops dismantling loudspeakers on the frontier.

Friday's August 15 anniversary of liberation from Japan is the only public holiday celebrated in both North and South Korea, according to Seoul's National Institute for Unification Education.

In Pyongyang, North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un also made a speech at a liberation day celebration, urging the nation to overcome "the challenges facing the DPRK for the great powerful country", using the North's official acronym.

However, in an unusual move for a Liberation Day address, he made no mention of South Korea or its "enemies."

The speech was before a Russian delegation to Pyongyang, including the speaker of the Duma, who read a congratulatory letter sent to Kim by Russian President Vladimir Putin.

World plastic pollution treaty talks collapse with no deal

GENEVA, AFP: Talks aimed at striking a landmark global treaty on plastic pollution fell apart Friday as countries failed to find consensus on how the world should tackle the ever-growing scourge.

Negotiators from 185 nations worked beyond Thursday's deadline and through the night in an ultimately futile search for common ground.

A large bloc wants bold action such as curbing plastic production, while a smaller clutch of oil-producing states want to focus more narrowly on waste management.

The stalemate was a resounding failure for the environment and for international diplomacy at a time when its frailties are in the spotlight.

Countries voiced anger and despair as the talks unravelled, but said they wanted future negotiations -- despite six rounds of talks over three years now having failed to find agreement.

"We have missed a historic opportunity but we have to keep going and act urgently," said Cuba. Colombia added: "The negotiations were consistently blocked by a small number of states who simply don't want an agreement."

Tuvalu, speaking for 14 Pacific small island developing states, said: "For our islands this means that without global cooperation and state action, millions of tonnes of plastic waste will continue to be dumped in our oceans, affecting our ecosystem, food security, livelihood and culture."

The High Ambition Coalition, which includes the European Union, Britain and Canada, and many African and Latin American countries, wanted to see language on reducing plastic production.

Two senior Chinese ministers attend India's Independence Day event

BEIJING, PTI

Two senior Chinese ministers attended India's Independence Day reception in Beijing on Friday.

The gesture by the Chinese government comes ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's likely visit to China for the annual summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation later this month.

Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Miao Deyu and Vice Minister Sun Haiyan of the International Department of the ruling Communist Party of China were the chief guests at a well-attended reception, held for the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic and over the year-long eastern Ladakh stand-off.

Sun congratulated India and said that the relations between the two countries are currently maintaining a momentum of improvement and development, the International Department of the Communist Party said in a press release.

China is willing to work with India to implement the important consensus reached by the leaders of the two countries, enhance political mutual trust, expand exchanges and cooperation, and promote the healthy and stable development of relations, she said.

The Communist Party of China is willing to strengthen exchanges and dialogue with all political parties in India and play a positive role in improving and developing relations, she added.

In his address, Indian Ambassador to China Pradeep Kumar Rawat highlighted the importance of India-China relations.

"Our two peoples have played a significant role in shaping human history, and we have a significant responsibility to promote peace and development," he said.

"There is a need for India and China to work together to realise the aspirations of 2.8 billion people. Amid global uncertainties, relations between India and China are a factor of stability and balance," he said.

Trump says semiconductor tariffs coming soon, could reach 300%

'I'll be setting tariffs next week and the week after'

BLOOMBERG

President Donald Trump said he would set levies on semiconductors in the coming two weeks, the latest indication he's readying a substantial expansion of his tariff regime.

"I'll be setting tariffs next week and the week after, on steel and on, I would, say chips — chips and semiconductors, we'll be setting sometime next week, week after," Trump told reporters Friday aboard Air Force One en route to Alaska for a summit with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

It wasn't clear if Trump misspoke about steel tariffs. He already hiked duties on steel and aluminum imports to 50% in June.

The president has repeatedly promised that levies on chips and pharmaceuticals are coming within weeks, but no formal announcements have yet been made.

Both sectors have been under Commerce Department investigation since April, a prerequisite for Trump to impose tariffs on national security grounds. That process can prove complicated and probes can take months or longer to resolve.

Manufacturers and artificial intelligence firms have been eager for more clarity about his plans for semiconductor rates, since chips are included in a wide range of modern consumer products.

Last week, Trump said during an event with Apple Inc. Chief Executive Officer Tim Cook that he planned a 100% tariff on semiconductors, while exempting products from companies that are moving manufacturing to the US.

Donald Trump

The White House hasn't offered a subsequent explanation for how that exemption would work, but Trump implied that Apple — which has pledged a $600 billion domestic manufacturing initiative — could be exempt.

On Friday, Trump suggested the charge on imported semiconductors could be even higher.

"I'm going to have a rate that is going to be 200%, 300%?" Trump said.

The US president indicated that he could speak about tariffs with Putin, and said he believed the Russian leader planned to bring business leaders to the summit.

"I noticed he's bringing a lot of business people from Russia, and that's good I like that because they want to do business," Trump said. "But they're not doing business until we get the war settled."

Trump in recent weeks has threatened to impose higher tariff rates on purchasers of Russian energy, including a pledge to impose a 50% levy on goods from India. He has also suggested he could ratchet up economic costs on Moscow if the meeting does not go well.

'Pharma tariffs likely under Section 232 probe'

WASHINGTON, Reuters: White House trade adviser Peter Navarro said on Thursday that the Trump administration is likely to levy tariffs on pharmaceutical imports under a "Section 232" trade investigation because it's "very clear that we have a national security crisis" due to U.S. reliance on foreign producers in the sector.

In an televised interview with CNBC, Navarro did not provide any details on the timing of the Section 232 probe.

He said that President Donald Trump's executive order to shore up supply chains will provide price floors for domestic producers of drug ingredients through long-term strategic contracts that will ensure sufficient demand. At the same time, tariffs will deter dumping of pharma precursors from India and China, he added.

More players beeline into quick commerce

Today India has about 87 companies in the fray: Tracxn

UMA KANNAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

The quick commerce space in the country is heating up with many new players entering the segment, which is no longer just a food and grocery play. From electronics to household services including cleaning, various platforms are offering services within 10 minutes to 1 hour.

Recently, ZILO, a fashion delivery startup that focuses on 60-minute delivery, raised $4.5 million. Urban Company in March forayed into quick commerce space with Insta Maids, where one can book a househelp in 15 minutes.

According to market intelligence firm Tracxn, there are 87 companies in the quick commerce space in India and in 2025 alone, the segment raised about $40.4 million across 13 rounds. In 2024, the quick commerce segment received a record $1.4 billion funding.

Madhav Kasturia, Founder & CEO, Zippee, which powers quick commerce logistics for consumer brands, said people expect the same 'under-an-hour' experience for everything... clothes before a last-minute event, beauty products before a night out, even urgent home services like plumbing or appliance repairs.

"What's interesting is how customers move between categories. Someone ordering milk at 8am might add a shirt or a hairdryer to the same cart because it'll all arrive together. And every new category we add doesn't just serve a customer, it creates a local job. From pickers and packers in micro-warehouses to delivery partners and service professionals, the more things people want instantly, the more employment opportunities open up in their own neighbourhoods," he added.

Redseer predicts a 40-45% GMV (gross merchandise value) CAGR for q-commerce in the next three years.

As far as food and grocery deliveries are concerned, dominant players such as Swiggy, Zomato and Zepto are adding many dark stores (distribution centres that focus on online orders).

Somdutta Singh, Serial Entrepreneur, Founder and CEO Assiduus Global said Blinkit is aiming for 2,000 dark stores by December 2025 and 3,000 by 2026, while BigBasket targets 1,000 to 1,200 by the end of 2025 along with a nationwide 10 minute food rollout by March 2026. "At this pace, quick commerce could become the default channel for routine purchases across categories, while traditional marketplaces handle the slower, long tail needs," she added.

Based on the data that Habanero Foods sees, groceries and kitchen staples like fresh vegetables, bread, pulses and other daily essentials dominate quick-commerce. "We are also noticing the hyper demand in Tier 2 cities due to the pent up demand for these products in those cities," said Griffith David, Founder & CEO, Habanero Foods.

With the rise of dark stores and hyperlocal fulfilment centres, he believes quick commerce will continue to enjoy solid growth. "While market saturation may set in eventually, the current trajectory is strong and evolving into a space where speed, quality, and indulgence meet seamlessly to deliver a highly satisfying customer experience," he added.

Mahindra eyes exporting electric vehicles to UK

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Mahindra & Mahindra on Friday said it plans to export electric vehicles to the UK as the recently signed free trade deal would lower taxes and make procedures easier.

At present, Mahindra exports passenger vehicles to South Africa and Australia. "We plan to export EVs to the UK," Mahindra & Mahindra Executive Director and CEO for auto and farm sectors Rajesh Jejurikar told reporters at a company event in Mumbai.

He said the company has outlined plans to invest Rs 27,000 crore over the next three years to expand its manufacturing capacity. Out of this Rs 12,000 crore will be building capacity for EV manufacturing and Rs 8,000 crore for ICE vehicles.

The company on Friday unveiled four concept vehicles targeted at the global markets. The newly unveiled sports utility vehicles (SUVs) called Vision.S, Vision.T, Vision.SXT and Vision.X, will address segments where the company currently does not have an offering.

The new models will be based on the NU_IQ platform. The commercial roll out of these vehicles are expected to begin in 2027.

"NU_IQ is a strategic blueprint for the future of Mahindra SUVs globally. With its modular, multi-energyarchitecture, it gives us the flexibility to innovate across multiple top hats and powertrains whilst staying true to our SUV DNA," said R Velusamy, Managing Director, Mahindra Electric Automobile Ltd.

"Designed to resolve paradoxes, NU_IQ forms the foundation for our next generation of SUVs. It marks a bold step and the start of a new era that frees customers from compromises and puts truly desirable, premium core SUVs squarely in the mainstream," he added.

"The NU_IQ SUVs, designed at our Global Design studios in Mumbai and Banbury, represent the start of a new chapter of our HEARTCORE design philosophy," said Pratap Bose, Chief Design & Creative Officer - Auto & Farm Sectors, Mahindra & Mahindra.

Business as usual: India buys 2 mn bpd Russian oil in August

NEW DELHI, PTI: India's purchase of Russian oil has risen to 2 million barrels per day (bpd) in August, as refiners continue to prioritise economic considerations in their sourcing decisions.

As much as 38% out of an estimated 5.2 million bpd of crude oil imported in the first half of August came from Russia, according to global real-time data and analytics provider Kpler.

Imports from Russia at 2 million bpd were up from 1.6 million bpd in July. The increase in Russian flow was at the cost of purchases from Iraq, which declined to 730,000 bpd in August from 907 bpd in July, and Saudi Arabia which fell to 526,000 bpd from 700,000 bpd last month.

The US was the fifth largest supplier at 264,000 bpd, according to Kpler.

"Russian crude imports into India have so far remained resilient in August, even after the Trump administration's tariff announcement in late July 2025," said Sumit Ritolia, Lead Research Analyst (Refining & Modeling) at Kpler. "But the stability we're seeing now is mostly a result of timing - August cargoes were locked in back in June and early July, well before any policy shifts."

What's showing up in the data today reflects decisions made weeks ago, he said, adding any real adjustment in flows - whether due to tariffs, payment issues, or shipping friction - will only start becoming visible from late September through October arrivals.

He noted that there's been no government directive to cut Russian volumes. "So from a policy standpoint, it's business as usual".

Arvinder Singh Sahney, chairman of Indian Oil Corporation - India's largest oil firm - too said the government has not given any instruction to go slow on purchases from Moscow in the aftermath of President Donald Trump's decision to slap an additional 25% tariff on US imports from India -- raising the overall duty to 50% -- as a penalty for the country's continued imports of Russian oil.

"Neither we are being told to buy nor told not to buy," he said. "We are not making extra effort to either increase or decrease the share of Russian crude."

Russian oil accounted for about 22% of the crude processed by IOC in April-June and the volumes are expected to remain the same in the near future, he said.

Separately, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) Director (Finance) Vetsa Ramakrishna Gupta on an investor call said imports from Russia had declined last month from 34%t of overall imports in June quarter, as discounts on it had narrowed to USD 1.5 per barrel.

"As long as there is no new sanction on Russian oil, our procurement strategy will be 30-35% of Russian crude for the remaining year," he had said.

India, the world's third-largest oil consumer and importer, had swiftly substituted market-priced oil with discounted Russian crude following Western sanctions on Moscow after its invasion of Ukraine in February 2022.

Gold heads for weekly decline as US price data dims hopes of big Fed cut

REUTERS: Gold prices edged higher on Friday, buoyed by a weaker dollar, but were poised for a weekly decline after hotter-than-expected U.S. producer price data dampened prospects for a super-sized September rate cut by the Federal Reserve.

Spot gold rose 0.2% to $3,340.59 per ounce as of 0941 GMT. Bullion has lost 1.7% for the week. US gold futures for December delivery edged up 0.1% to $3,387.50.

The US dollar index fell 0.4%, making gold less expensive for other currency holders.

"In the short term, gold has a heightened inverse relationship to moves in the US dollar, which in turn is being whipsawed by economic data and fast news on both tariffs and Ukraine," independent analyst Ross Norman said.

US producer prices increased by the most in three years in July amid a surge in the costs of goods and services, data showed on Thursday, signaling inflation pressures in the pipeline. Weekly jobless claims also came in lower than expected, at 224,000 compared to forecasts of 228,000. The data dampened bets, fanned by benign consumer price data.

Ola Electric launches indigenously made cell, new sport scooter

E.T.B. SIVAPRIYAN
POCHAMPALLI, DHNS

In a significant milestone in its indigenous push, homegrown Ola Electric on Friday announced that its '4680 Bharat' cell, made at its 'Giga Factory' here, will be integrated into two of its existing models -- S1 Pro Plus scooter and Roadster X Plus motorcycle.

The company also launched the S1 Pro Sport electric scooter and introduced an advanced prototype of the Diamondhead, a motorcycle that is expected to hit the market by mid-2027 and cost under Rs 5 lakh. All these vehicles will be powered by the indigenously made battery cell.

"We will start deliveries of vehicles powered by the indigenously made cells this Navratri. The cell is the heart of an electric vehicle, and these made-in-India cells will not just enhance performance and fast-charging capacity but also reduce costs, since everything is being made here," Bhavish Aggarwal, founder and chairman, Ola Electric, told *DH* during a brief interaction.

Aggarwal also announced price reductions: the S1 Pro Plus will drop from Rs 2 lakh to Rs 1.70 lakh, while the Roadster X Plus will be reduced from Rs 2.25 lakh to Rs 1.89 lakh, following integration of the indigenously made cells.

The entrepreneur also unveiled India's first indigenously developed ferrite motor, which uses no rare-earth magnets, thus ensuring complete supply chain independence.

S&P upgrades ratings of 10 financial institutions

NEW DELHI, PTI: S&P Global Ratings on Friday upgraded ratings of top 10 financial institutions, including SBI, HDFC Bank and Tata Capital, a day after the US-based agency raised India's sovereign credit rating.

"India's financial institutions will continue to ride the country's good economic growth momentum. These entities will benefit from their domestic focus and structural improvements in the system such as in the recovery of bad loans," S&P said.

S&P has raised long-term issuer credit ratings on seven Indian banks -- State Bank of India, ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank, Axis Bank Ltd, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Union Bank of India, and Indian Bank -- and three finance companies -- Bajaj Finance, Tata Capital, and L&T Finance.

EaseMyTrip sees Q1 growth driven by hotels, packages, robust intnl ops

NEW DELHI, PTI: Online travel platform EaseMyTrip reported an over 81% rise in hotels and holiday packages bookings in the June quarter, as travel picked up in the world's fastest-growing economy.

Hotels and holiday package bookings grew by 81.2% year-on-year, rising from 1.8 lakhs to 3.3 lakhs, the firm said in a statement.

The trains, buses, and others segment recorded a 41.4% year-on-year growth in Q1 FY26, with bookings increasing from 3.1 lakh to 4.3 lakh.

Dubai operations saw gross booking revenue surge 151% to Rs 318.1 crore.

It had a gross booking revenue of Rs 2,065.8 crore in the quarter and EBITDA of Rs 6.9 crore on a revenue of Rs 113.8 crore.

Flights make up 79.2% of gross booking revenue, and hotels and holiday packages account for 18.8 %. The remaining 2.1% comes from train, buses and other bookings.

When it comes to revenue from operations, flights contribute 50%, while hotels and holiday packages contribute 28.6%. The remaining 21.4% comes from trains, buses and other bookings.

Air ticketing remains steady at 24,230 flight segments booked daily. Non-air segments, such as hotels, packages, trains, buses and others delivered strong double-digit growth.

"Hotels and Packages grew 81.2% YoY and Dubai operations surged 151%, both offering better margins than flights. We've also acquired premium hospitality and commercial assets to build a strong physical base, and launched EMT 2.0 to diversify into new verticals," it said.

ED searches Vuenow Infratech premises

REUTERS: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) searched the residential and business premises of Vuenow group of companies, including IT solutions firm Vuenow Infratech , its director Rahul Anand Bhargav and other related people and entities, the agency said on Friday.

The search was conducted on Thursday in premises across Punjab, Haryana and Maharashtra states in connection with money laundering allegations related to the group, ED said in a post on X.

The agency said it has seized cash, electronic devices, "incriminating records", shares and immovable property worth Rs 73.72 crore.

Vuenow Infratech, which provides IT and consulting services, said in a statement to exchanges that the ED has seized its main Bhiwadi data centre, in Rajasthan state, worth Rs 9.25 crore, which could impact its financial or operational activities.

The company is "trying to assess the extent" of the impact, it said. Bhargav's demat account, used to hold and trade securities, has also been frozen for debit transactions, Vuenow added.

REALTY CHECK

Bengaluru's Sarjapur Road, Thanisandra Main Road see 80% rise in housing prices in 3.5 yrs

NEW DELHI, PTI

Bengaluru's Sarjapur Road and Thanisandra Main Road have witnessed around 8% growth in average housing prices in the past three and a half years, according to Anarock.

Real estate consultant Anarock data showed that the average housing prices at Sarjapur Road appreciated by 79% to Rs 10,800 per sq ft in April-June this year from Rs 6,050 per sq ft at 2021-end.

Thanisandra Main Road, located in the north Bengaluru, saw an 81% increase in prices to Rs 9,700 per sq ft from Rs 5,345 per sq ft.

"Sarjapur Road has long been part of Bengaluru's eastern IT corridor, but the promise of the Red Line Namma Metro — connecting Hebbal to Sarjapur — has fuelled a fresh wave of interest," the consultant said.

Thanisandra Main Road's proximity to Manyata Tech Park and improving road connectivity have made it a magnet for mid-to-upper-income IT professionals, it added.

Rental values too have increased sharply at Sarjapur Road and Thanisandra Main Road by 81%.

Across 14 key micro markets in seven major cities, Anarock said that capital values rose 24-139% and rentals climbed 32–81% between 2021-end and Q2 2025.

These seven cities are Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Pune, NCR, Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR), Kolkata, and Chennai.

Commenting on the Bengaluru's housing prices trend, Karishmah Siingh, President (Sales, CRM and Marketing) at Sattva Group, said Sarjapur Road and Thanisandra Main Road corridors have matured into premium destinations.

"The ORR-Airport metro connectivity, the upcoming Sarjapur-Hebbal corridor, and strategic proximity to the Outer Ring Road IT belt have created a compelling value proposition," she said.

The limited supply in these prime regions has only reinforced their investment appeal, Siingh said.

Anjana Sastri, Director-Marketing of Sterling Developers, said, "Connectivity has played a crucial role in the rapid growth of North Bengaluru's real estate sector with areas such as Hebbal and Thanisandra witnessing rapid demand."

Angad Bedi, CMD of BCD Group, said Sarjapura and Thanisandra are witnessing the development of Grade A office spaces along with rapid development of enabling ecosystems such as residential and retail spaces.

"A judicious combination of these is resulting in accelerated growth in capital as well as rental values and is poised for sustained growth in the short-term," he added.

Bhavesh Kothari, Founder & CEO of Property First Realty, said, "While Sarjapur is a prime destination for startups and unicorns, Thanisandra is an established destination for established enterprises and MNCs, making these locations ideal for investment from a retail investors' perspective."

Sarjapur Iblur junction

STORYTIME

Bella's pink umbrella

Ashrafi Antia writes about a beloved umbrella's incredible journey and the lives it touches along the way

When Bella was twelve, her aunt brought her a fancy umbrella from England as a gift. It was beautiful — pink with sprays of purple and violet flowers with blue butterflies hovering over them.

Bella was the centre of attention when she opened it at school on a wet, rainy day. She carried the umbrella with her, come rain or shine — using it as a parasol on sunny days too. The pink umbrella was amongst her most prized possessions.

One wet and windy day, as Bella walked home, the howling wind tugged at her umbrella this way and that, whilst she held on to it as tightly as she could. As Bella walked past the lake, the gusts of wind swirling around her lifted her skirt. She held the umbrella tightly in one hand whilst trying to hold down her skirt with the other. The mischievous wind seized the opportunity and tore the umbrella from her grip.

Much to her dismay, Bella watched her beloved umbrella fly away — soaring high, like a kite in the sky; till the treacherous wind dropped it with a plop, right in the middle of the lake.

Luckily, the umbrella landed upside down and floated on the water with its handle in the air, bobbing along on the surface of the lake. The wind pushed the umbrella along like a boat, until it reached the other side of the lake and got entangled in some weeds there.

The dainty umbrella was a muddy mess.

CREDIT: ISTOCK

Suddenly it heard a voice exclaiming, "What's this?", as a boy wearing shorts and a torn vest pulled it out of the weeds. "I'll give it a good wash and then present it to my elder sister who sits on the footpath selling vegetables all day. This will shelter her from the sun and the rain." True to his word, Ramu scrubbed the umbrella clean and presented it to his didi, Simi, who was delighted with the gift. The umbrella felt useful and appreciated once again.

One day, Simi noticed a young boy slyly stuffing his pockets with oranges from Shantabai's cart, whilst the old fruit-seller was distracted. As the boy sneaked away, Simi grabbed her umbrella and hooked its handle around his ankle, causing him to trip. The stolen oranges rolled onto the footpath. Simi gave him a whack or two with the pink umbrella and said, "That will teach you not to steal from others." Apologising, the boy ran away whilst the street vendors applauded Simi.

Many years later, a pretty young girl came along with her mother to buy some vegetables. The umbrella recognised them. It was Bella and her mother. It wondered if they would recognise or even notice it in its present condition. Straightaway, Bella exclaimed, "That's my umbrella. Where did you find it?" Taken aback, Simi said, "No Ma, this is my old, faithful umbrella that I've had for years. My brother found it by the lake."

"That makes perfect sense", said Bella, "as my umbrella was blown into the lake several years ago. Please may I have it back? It was my favourite."

Simi turned pale. Reluctant to let her precious umbrella go, she pleaded, "What will you do with an old, faded umbrella, Ma? I need it." Bella thought about it and understood that Simi needed the umbrella more than her; yet after finally finding her long lost friend, she didn't want to be parted from it again. She still felt sentimentally attached to it.

Suddenly, she had an idea that she thought would make both Simi and her happy. Bella said, "What if I gave you my new, bigger umbrella in exchange? Then would you please consider giving my beloved old pink umbrella back to me? I've been searching for it for years."

Simi realised she was getting a good deal and nodded. She stretched out her hand and took the multicoloured new umbrella Bella was offering her. She folded the old pink umbrella and wistfully said, "Goodbye my friend. You served me well", and handed it over to Bella, who beamed with happiness.

Bella's mother bought lots of vegetables from Simi and promised to come back again. As they walked to their car, mum asked Bella, "What will you do with this old umbrella of yours?"

"I have an idea! You know how I've always wanted to run craft classes in the summer vacation... I'll use the umbrella for that", said Bella smiling. "I'll call it 'The Pink Umbrella Craft Camp' and this umbrella will be my logo."

As planned, Bella, ran her 'The Pink Umbrella Craft Camp' in her summer holidays. She put multicoloured umbrellas out in her garden for the kids to sit under whilst working on various art and craft activities while she sat in the centre under her pink umbrella. At the end of the course, each child got to paint their favourite coloured umbrella with fabric paints in any design or pattern they fancied. Thus, all the children left Bella's camp with an umbrella they made that they could treasure; just like Bella treasured her pink umbrella.

2 DIY crafts using paper rolls...

...And some basic stationery

Paper candles

Materials needed

- Empty toilet paper rolls: 4-5
- White acrylic or spray paint
- Hot glue gun
- Battery-operated LED tea lights
- White card or thick paper
- A decorative box or cardboard base
- Lace, beads, or ribbon

Method

1) To prepare the candle body — select toilet paper rolls in different heights — cut some shorter to create a staggered look.
2) Cut a circular piece of white card to fit as a lid on top of the roll. The LED tea light will be placed into this.
3) To create the dripping wax effect, use a hot glue gun. Start from the top edge of the roll, and let the glue drip down the sides in uneven lengths to depict melted wax.
4) Add some more glue along the rim to make it look like wax is collected in a pool. Let the glue harden completely.
5) Paint the entire roll (including the glue drip) with white acrylic or spray paint. Let it dry completely. Apply a second coat, if needed.
6) Place each LED tea light on top of the lid — the flame should stick up above the rim.
7) Place the candles into a decorative box or a cardboard base. Stick their bases to make them stand firm. Decorate the base with ribbon, lace or beads.
8) Switch on the LED lights for a cosy, flickering glow.

Dragon pen holder

Materials needed

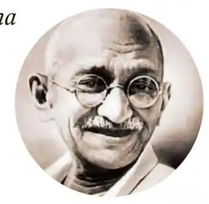
- Empty toilet paper rolls: 3
- Sturdy cardboard
- Pencil and eraser
- Scissors
- Glue stick
- Crayons or markers
- Ruler

Method

1) To make the base, cut a rectangle or oval shape from the cardboard. It should be large enough to fit 3 toilet paper rolls side by side.
2) You can leave it plain or colour it to match the dragon's body.
3) Make the 3 rolls stand vertically on the base, together in a row. Glue them down with a strong layer of glue. Let it dry.
4) To create the different parts of the dragon, take another piece of cardboard, and draw and cut out the dragon head, a long neck, tail and 2 wings.
5) Use a few triangles for the back. Add small details like claws or belly scales. Colour the pieces — green for the body, purple for spikes, and other details as you like.
6) Glue the head and neck to the left side of the first roll so it looks like the dragon's head is peeking forward. Glue the tail to the right side of the last roll so it extends out. Glue the wings onto the first roll.
7) Draw the dragon's eye, noise, and smile on the head, and any other details with crayon or markers.
8) If making spikes, glue them on top of the rolls between the head and tail.
9) Once everything is dry, you can fill the rolls with pencils, pens, paintbrushes, scissors, or other supplies.

'Thank you for an INDEPENDENT INDIA'

Open Sesame readers write to their favourite freedom fighters



Greetings Mahatma Gandhiji,

First of all, I would like to thank you for all the efforts that you and all the other freedom fighters put in to make India an independent country so that children like us don't have to see the British torturing people and stopping them from entering our favourite restaurants, wearing Indian clothes, walking freely on the road, and travelling to places we want to travel.

Can you also please tell me why salt was banned and how did you manage to get it removed? If I was there during your time, I would have supported you by eating salt made by you and walking with you in the Dandi March. I also have a few questions to ask you, such as do you celebrate your birthday, and what is your favourite food and colour? Do you play a sport, if yes, which one? My favourite book is 'Diary of a Wimpy Kid'; which is your favourite book?

Would you like to join me in time travel and see how India has evolved over the last 78 years since Independence? I am sure you would love to see today's Bengaluru and all the wonders of India.

Jai Hind. Jai Bharat!

AYAAN AHMED, 9
Bengaluru, Karnataka

Dear Bhagat Singh,

If I were given the chance to meet you, I would first fold my hands and thank you for the life I am able to live today. You chose the hardest path — not because you had to, but because you believed in something greater than yourself. You were barely in your twenties, yet you carried the weight of an entire nation's hope on your shoulders.

Even today, your name is not just written in history books — it is whispered in classrooms, shouted in protests, and carried silently in the hearts of those who refuse to bow to injustice. The chains may have changed — from foreign rule to corruption, inequality, and ignorance — but your fearless spirit reminds us that nothing is impossible.

If you could see the youth of today, you would find many still trying — some raising voices against wrongs, some building the nation through knowledge and science, and some quietly spreading kindness where it is needed most.

Before our meeting ends, I would ask you how you stayed so calm when the world tried to break you. Your answer would be the torchlight that every generation needs to carry, as long as India's flag flies in the wind.

With gratitude, respect, and a promise to keep your dream alive...

Yours sincerely,

AISHWARYA S, 13
Shivamogga, Karnataka

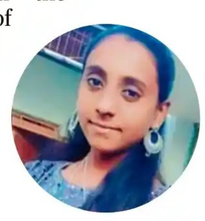
Dear Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose,

The following reflects on the life of a leader whose name echoes courage and defiance. The journey, from forgoing the Indian civil service to travelling across continents to find allies against British rule, was remarkable. The call of 'Give me blood and I shall give you freedom' still demonstrating a powerful ability to ignite patriotic fervour.

Though the Indian National Congress, the main instrument of Indian nationalism, praised your patriotism, it distanced itself from your tactics and ideology. Mahatma Gandhi, while recognising you as 'Undoubtedly a patriot', felt your methods were misguided. This divergence within the Independence movement highlights the complex struggle for freedom. Today, as India moves forward as an independent nation, your legacy remains a subject of great importance and inspiration, according to Raj Bhavan Haryana.

Your emphasis on communal harmony and unity across all sections of society, regardless of religion or caste, resonates strongly through India's diversity. Your vision of a self-reliant India, free from poverty, illiteracy and diseases, continues to guide the nation's aspiration for progress. Though your methods have been debated, your ultimate goal — the liberation and upliftment of India — remains a guiding principle.

With deepest respect and gratitude, a citizen of Independent India.



KEERTHANA L, 15
Tumakuru, Karnataka

This Week:

Belagavi braveheart

Open Sesame Quiz!

Take the fun Open Sesame quiz, and stand a chance to win gift vouchers worth Rs 500. Open to children below 16 years.

Q1 Born August 15, 1798, Sangolli Rayanna, could not have foreseen the 1947 significance of his birthdate. Whom did he hope to crown after the death of Kittur Rani Chennamma, in 1829?

Q2 The 2012 Kannada film, 'Krantiveera Sangolli Rayanna', depicts the resistance of the titular freedom fighter against the British East India Company rule. What historical character does Jaya Prada portray?

Q3 Which unjust policy of the East India Company, empowering it to annex Indian princely states, did Kittur Rani Chennamma and her commander, Sangolli Rayanna, valiantly oppose in battle?

Scan the QR code
Or visit bit.ly/DHopensesame to participate in the quiz.

Q4 **Rhyme Time:** Two clues to which the answers rhyme with each other.
Clue A: Sangolli Rayanna waged guerilla warfare, helped by __.
Clue B: Long-tailed, ground-dwelling birds.

Q5 **Clue Cluster:** After whom is the circle at Peeranwadi, Belagavi District (where stands a statue of Sangolli Rayanna), named?
Use these clues.
a) Jijabai
b) Raigad
c) Sindhudurg
d) 17th Century

LAST WEEK'S WINNERS: Hema Maulini (10), Bengaluru; Aishwarya S (14), Shivamogga; Joseph Xavier (14), Bengaluru.

POETS IN THE MAKING

Want to see your poetry in print?

Send in poems about the topic 'My hope for the future' to Open Sesame. You may be featured in an upcoming edition. Mail your work — not more than 12 lines to opensesame@deccanherald.co.in. Entries close on August 21. Open to children below 16 years. Don't forget to mention your name, age, and city. And send us a recent photograph.

LET'S DEBATE!

Want to take part in the upcoming *Open Sesame* debate? Share your thoughts in a crisp 200-word essay on the topic: 'Is a friendly teacher better than a strict one?' Mail your work to *opensesame@deccanherald.co.in.* Entries close on September 4. Open to children below 16 years. Don't forget to mention your name, age, school and city. And send us a recent photograph.

Word of the Week

Pedagogical

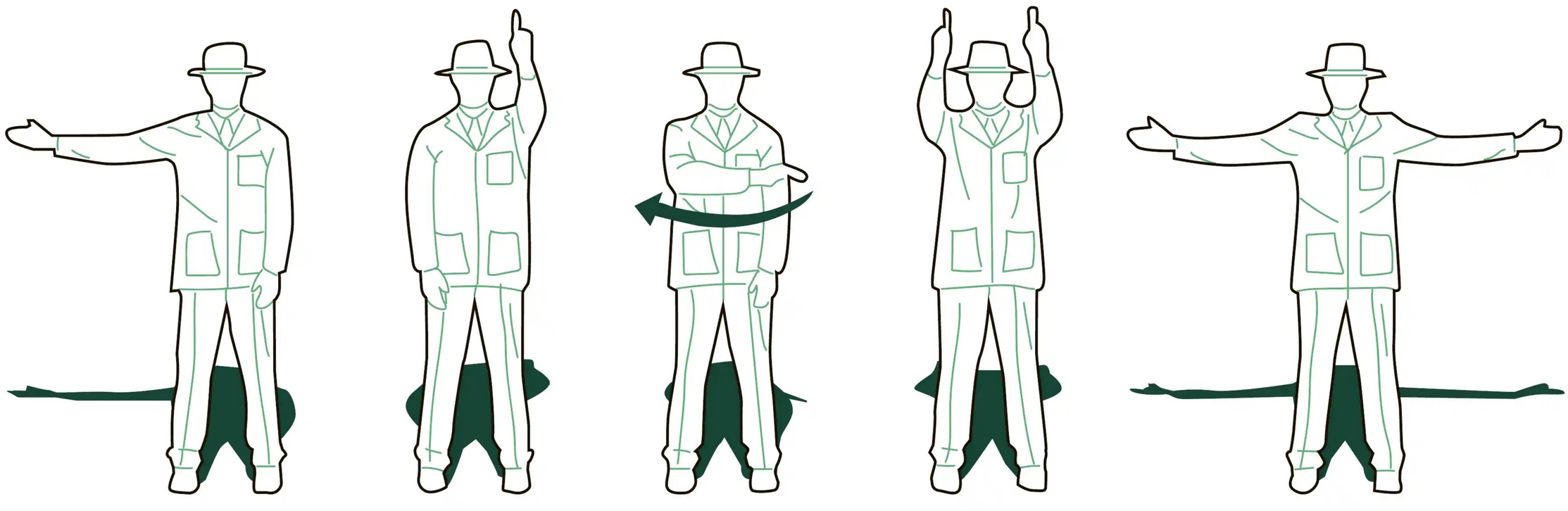
(adjective) — relating to teaching or education.

Examples:
— The workshop introduced new pedagogical strategies for large classes.
— The museum's exhibits were chosen with their pedagogical value in mind.

ART CORNER

Love painting?

Want to showcase your flair for colours? Send your paintings on the theme 'Festivities' to *Open Sesame* and stand a chance to get featured in an upcoming edition. Mail photographs of your work to *opensesame@deccanherald.co.in.* Open to children below 16 years. Don't forget to mention your name, age, and city. And send us a recent photograph of yourself. Entries close on August 28.



AN UMPIRE'S STORY

Life at the stumps

Umpire-turned-journalist G Krishnan offers an up-close view of the high stakes job in which every decision shapes cricket history

I remember the day Shavir Tarapore, a retired international umpire from Bengaluru, told me something that changed how I saw cricket forever. He looked me in the eye and said, "Cricket is never played between just two teams. It is played between three — the two sides out there, and us, the umpires. Umpires become half the size of a playing eleven when you count the TV umpire, the fourth umpire, and the scorers who watch our every signal."

Even before I became an umpire, I could picture every gesture I would use. One arm sweeping across the chest — four runs. Both arms raised high — a six. Arms stretched wide — wide ball. Standing on one leg with the other half-raised — leg bye. Simple gestures that can change the course of matches and careers.

Tarapore, 67, says: "People think we have the best seats in the house. Maybe we do — front row to every triumph, every disaster. I have watched players reach incredible heights and cross milestones no one thought possible. I have also seen them fall — sometimes because of a decision I made — definitely not intentional but that was the way I saw it."

He continues: "My international record reads four Tests, 25 ODIs and three T20s on the field. But it is not numbers that stay with you. It is the faces — that split second when a player realises his career might have just changed direction because of where I pointed my finger."

You want to know what pressure feels like? Stand there while 22 players, thousands of spectators, and millions of viewers on television wait for your decision. You have, maybe, three seconds to make a call that could echo all through cricket history.

Ivaturi Shivram, 71, from Hyderabad, says: "For me, the real reward is when I see acceptance and respect in players' eyes. Not anger, not frustration — just that quiet acknowledgment that you got it right."

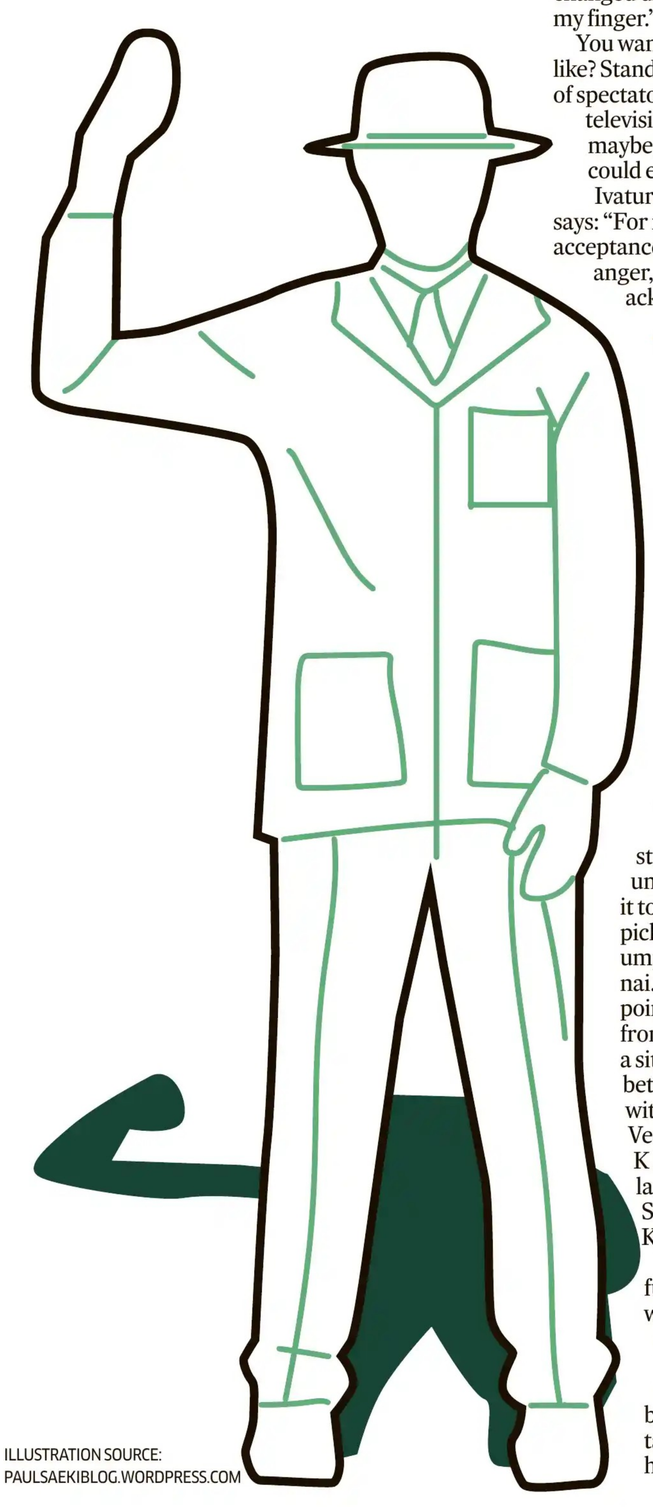


ILLUSTRATION SOURCE: PAULSAEKIBLOG.WORDPRESS.COM

Training in the '90s

In the late 1990s, I registered with the Tamil Nadu Cricket Association in Chennai. I sat in classes with eminent umpires who had officiated in Ranji Trophy matches, Duleep Trophy, and the Irani Cup. Occasionally, international umpires dropped in as guests. The practical tests were brutal — mock games with jurors firing questions from every angle: "What is your call here? What about this? Why did you not signal for this action by the bowler?" Sometimes two or three questions at once, testing not just knowledge but alertness under pressure.

This is usually the process in most state associations to qualify as an umpire. I was so determined to make it to the highest level in umpiring that I picked the brains of every international umpire who passed through Chennai. I would ask them about the finer points of umpiring, pick up examples from Test matches, and discuss how a situation could have been handled better. In due course, I interacted with Test umpires such as our own Venkataraghavan, A V Jayaprakash, V K Ramaswamy, Piloo Reporter, England's George Sharp, New Zealand's Steve Dunne and South Africa's Rudi Koertzen.

While some welcomed my youthful enthusiasm, it was Dunne with whom I maintained contact through air mail for a couple of years.

We would discuss the umpiring decisions from the series played back then. Sometimes we even talked about his own decisions and how he handled pressure. He knows pressure better than most — he officiated in the historic India versus Pakistan Test in Chennai in 1999 along with V K Ramaswamy and others.

I did not miss the opportunity to interact even with Ranji Trophy umpires who came to officiate in matches in Chennai. I always held umpires in high esteem, and sided with them even when they made mistakes. After all, umpires are human. But after I became a journalist and was no longer an umpire, I had to report everything as I saw it, even if it meant highlighting umpiring errors.

Shivram says: "Earlier, seniority took you from state to national level. Now there are Level 1 and Level 2 exams. State associations send their top four to BCCI seminars."

Tarapore adds: "It helps if you have played first-class cricket." But Shivram disagrees. "Not necessarily. S Venkataraghavan was an exception — brilliant player, brilliant umpire. But V K Ramaswamy, Swaroop Kishen, M V Gothoskar, S Ravi — none of them played representative cricket, yet they became exceptional umpires. Some ex-players thought they could just waltz into umpiring and match Venkataraghavan's stature. Most faded away quickly," he points out.

Tarapore has given some tough moments to umpires when he was a player (he played six first-class matches for Karnataka as a leg-spinner) but when he faced the music, he says, he understood the players' emotions. He reminisces: "There have been instances when I reacted to an umpire's decision I was not happy about. But, when I became an umpire and the players showed their displeasure, especially on the 'no-ball' call, I took it with a pinch of salt."

S Ravi from Chennai was an inspiration. Along with national umpire S Radhakrishnan, he used to conduct umpiring classes at the M A Chidambaram Stadium premises. Later, I became a journalist as it was the only profession through which I could still be close to a sport I loved. I was elated to witness the rise of Ravi. He became the second Indian after Venkataraghavan to get into the ICC Elite Panel of umpires.

More match days

When I started out, umpiring was not a career choice. The match fees barely covered travel. You did it for love and passion, not money.

Shivram says: "In the last 15 years, things improved. Umpires got better pay, and more match days. But in the last couple of years, with nearly 200 BCCI panel umpires, match days are fewer per umpire. For most, it is no longer a full-time profession — only the elite, say the top 10 with IPL postings, can rely on it. So, you cannot categorically say you can take up umpiring as a profession." The top-grade BCCI-panel umpires (about 30 of them) earn around Rs 40,000 per match day while the rest earn about Rs 30,000 per match day for national tournaments.

Our stay and travel have also improved over the years. We are looked after well — on par with the players.

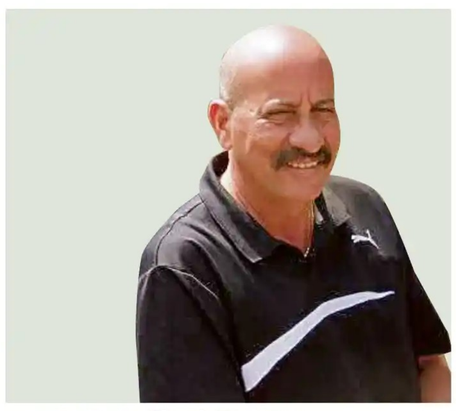
Umpires and match referees are a close-knit team, often preferring to have a quiet dinner after a long day on the field to focus on the gruelling work ahead of them the next day. We strictly cannot socialise with players, except for a quick exchange of pleasantries.

Player interaction

For me, the most memorable moments are those of acknowledgement. I think of England captain Ben Stokes shaking umpire Rod Tucker's hand at the end of an over in the recent fourth Test at Old Trafford during the India-England series. His 'not out' decision was proven right by the Decision Review System, a technology used to review umpires' decisions.

In the fifth Test at The Oval, during the same series, Mohammed Siraj, applauded umpire Ahsan Raza for a perfect leg-before-wicket (LBW) call. Tarapore says: "Seeing is believing. We err like everyone else. The key is to get over it quickly because the next ball is already coming."

Two years of lower-division umpiring in the Tamil Nadu Cricket Association (TNCA) taught me resilience. School matches were the purest joy — young players just starting out. Some go on to make it big. Others, like Aditya Srikkanth, elder son of cricketer K Srikkanth, played school cricket and age-group matches but left the sport to pursue academics.



Shavir Tarapore

Lower divisions in the state league also had notorious teams. I once had to abandon a match due to constant abuse from the dressing room by a batsman I had given run out. I filed a formal complaint.

Then there were the good days — Young Stars Cricket Academy Trophy matches with Ranji players like Sunil Subramanian and P C Prakash.

Umpires, it is often said, are to maintain a distance from the players. But nothing stops us from admiring their achievements. I have seen such legendary umpires as Dickie Bird and David Shepherd from England having a quiet word at the end of an over when a batsman reaches a hundred or a bowler takes a five-wicket haul.

On the field

We — Tarapore, Shivram, and I — all know the grind: first to enter the field, last to leave. At least six hours under the blazing sun. Players rest when their side bats. We rest only during scheduled breaks. Fitness is essential. Not player-level, but enough to keep us sharp. In the earlier days, most international umpires were over 45 and heavier. Now we take fitness seriously. I have seen Australian umpire Simon Taufel jogging around the boundary, doing his stretching exercises while the players were going through their pre-game routines.

Ivaturi Shivram

Not only do umpires have to stay physically fit but they also have to mentally attune themselves to the changing conditions. With the national-panel umpires having to officiate in corners away from home, one of the main challenges is the rigorous travel.

Says a player-turned-umpire who preferred to remain anonymous: "We need to get accustomed to different climatic conditions and food habits. India's topography is so varied that umpires officiate in contrasting conditions that they are not acclimatised to. The matches in east and north-east India start 30-45 minutes earlier than in the rest of the country because of the early sunrise and sunset. So, an umpire has to adjust to those time zones. Besides, like players, umpires too adjust to different formats, from T20s to five-day matches to one-dayers."

The challenges are not just geographical. Says another umpire who has officiated in women's matches with an upcoming woman umpire: "It takes time for the players to accept a woman as an umpire. But once they have accepted them, half the battle is won. In 'maidan' cricket, it is only the two umpires and the scorer. Also, more matches are held simultaneously and identifying players is a challenge that you overcome with experience. In higher level matches played in the stadiums, you have to deal with the noise from the crowd. Communicating even on a walkie-talkie is tough."

That said, giving the right decisions consistently is what makes umpires successful. But we have remained in the background, we do not attract fans for autographs or selfies. Even former players, who may have been mobbed during their playing days, are ignored once they become umpires.

Inaccurate tech

Technology has changed the game. There have been varied levels of acceptance from different countries initially. India was the last to fully embrace it – especially the DRS.

Tarapore says: "In today's age of AI, people are talking about umpires gradually becoming extinct. I don't think so. Tomorrow, someone could say, 'Why do you need bowlers? Use a bowling machine'. You cannot take the human touch away from the game."

The author, G Krishnan, was an umpire in the 1990s.

Dunne always maintains: "The TV cameras are at an elevated angle behind the boundary lines. They are not in line with the on-field umpire's eyes. So, there is always going to be that element of doubt. Technology is not 100% accurate."

Shivram is still not convinced about the accuracy of technology. "I am not a fan of DRS. The blue line (imaginary line drawn between the stumps that one sees on television) is manual. Anything can be done there. On the last day of the recent India-England Test at The Oval, Dharmasena called a run out. Most would have said 'not out'. I would also have said 'not out' as the ball would have missed the leg stump on the face of it. I was shocked to see Dharmasena lift his finger after a while. That blue line could have gone anywhere. But, as it happened, it was the umpire's call," he says.

Tarapore echoes Shivram's sentiments. Tarapore adds: "I used DRS when it was in its initial days, in 2010 and the 2011 World Cup. I believe that technology has taken away the on-field spats between players. Technology is not 100% accurate and with DRS, the accuracy rate is around 90%. There is always scope for improvement."

Every single ball, every decision — cricket history can hang in the balance of our judgement. We are the third team. And without us the game would not be the same.

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MUSICANA

'My sound is constantly evolving but my roots will always be in rock'

Tanya Shanker talks to Caitlin Lester about shedding the label of child prodigy and reinventing herself

Tanya Shanker has known she wanted to be a singer ever since she was six years old, when she stood on stage in front of 500 classmates, singing 'Cowboy take me away' by the Dixie Chicks.

Now 19, the big-voiced rock singer says she still gets the same feeling every time she takes the stage. "The fear melts away and I get lost in the music," she says.

Tanya is a former child prodigy. At 12 years old, her first single, 'Thank you mum', went viral, gaining over 20,000 views in the first week of its release.

Having a big hit so young opened doors for her career, she says. She has been featured in *Rolling Stone* multiple times, interviewed by the *BBC*, and has performed at the Hornbill Festival, one of India's biggest rock festivals.

However, early success has been a double-edged sword. Tanya says that it's been a struggle to reconstruct her identity as an adult musician. "I've had to shed the prodigy label," she says. "It's been painful yet freeing."

Her most recent EP, 'Cyberfantasy', has a "retro-futurist" feel, she says. "It's futuristic, but it's also drawing sounds from 2000s pop like Britney Spears and Christina Aguilera," she explains.

The EP explores what it means to be a citizen of the online world and how the Internet has so vastly changed the dating landscape. "People just create online personas now," Tanya says. "You don't know what is real anymore."

The subject matter of her songs is deeply personal, but she is confident her listeners will find them relatable too.

Tanya feels a great responsibility to represent her age group and their lives. "Young people are often treated disrespectfully by older people. Their problems, joys, and fears are normally belittled," she says.

The Bengaluru-based artiste notes that her music appeals to a niche audience in India, as she writes and performs exclusively in English. Most of her listeners are based in the USA, and Europe.

She is currently working on a new album, set for release by the end of the year. She's excited about the project. The new songs, she says, "capture my feelings" particularly well.

But she warns listeners not to expect her upcoming album to sound the same as 'Cyberfantasy', because her sound is constantly evolving. The versatile singer seems to move effortlessly between pop, R&B, trap, synthwave, and other genres.

"My roots will always be in rock though," she says, adding, "I have a kinship with it."

Tanya Shanker is working on a new album, set for release by the end of the year.
PIC: SAMMY ADAMS

Multi-starrers are not just about commercial potential but also about what is happening in the polity, writes M K Raghavendra. One of Indian cinema's biggest blockbusters marks its 50th year

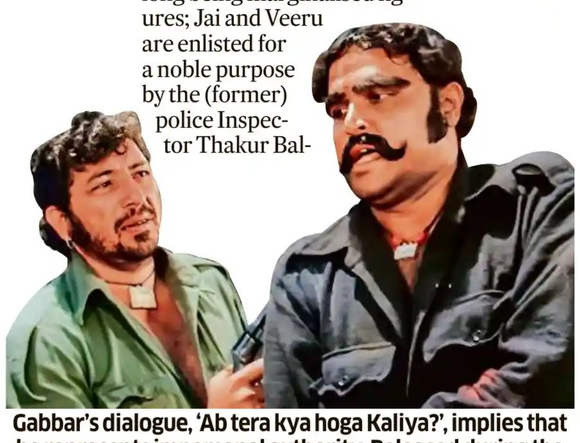
Sholay and the politics of its times

Ramesh Sippy's 'Sholay' (1975) is a rare film that can be discussed and analysed without first having to describe it. There is perhaps no better known Indian film even 50 years after its release. Everyone is also aware of its attractions, the *dosti* between Dharmendra and Amitabh, the romance between Dharmendra (Veeru) and Hema Malini (Basanti) and the unrequited one between Amitabh (Jai) and Jaya (Radha). Sanjeev Kumar as the shrouded and armless Thakur Baldev Singh and Amjad Khan as Gabbar Singh, the most memorable villain ever from Bollywood still do not complete the picture since there are also three over-the-top comic performances from Asrani, Keshto Mukherjee and Jagdeep. Regardless of its unabashed borrowings from world cinema, (notably Sergio Leone's 'Once Upon a Time in the West') 'Sholay' is a popular classic that has withstood the test of time, almost heroically. But it makes little sense to once again praise its various aspects and I will examine some motifs that could relate to its basis in Indira Gandhi's most fearsome period, shortly after declaring the Emergency.

Jai (Amitabh Bachchan) and Veeru (Dharmendra) are picked for a noble mission by Thakur (Sanjeev Kumar) because of their sterling qualities.

FEEDBACK
Send your ideas and comments to dhonsat @deccanherald.co.in

The first motif of importance is that of petty criminals enlisted by the law to fight a larger evil which first appeared in 'Zanjeer' (1973) where the owner of a gambling den (Pran) joins a policeman (Amitabh) to fight the dastardly villain (Ajit). What the motif suggests is the new implications of legality/justice when Indira Gandhi envisaged redefining the law through a 'committed judiciary' sensitive to the needs of the people. Film theorists have noted that the petty criminal represents the marginalised in Hindi cinema and enlisting them to fight national enemies is to draw them into the mainstream after long being marginalised figures; Jai and Veeru are enlisted for a noble purpose by the (former) police Inspector Thakur Baldev Singh because of their sterling qualities.



Gabbar's dialogue, 'Ab tera kya hoga Kaliya?', implies that he represents impersonal authority. Released during the Emergency, is there an association between Gabbar and impersonal official tyranny in the film?

The second motif is the larger evil represented by Gabbar and such figures proliferated in the 1970s. The villains of the 1970s, those played mostly by Ajit, are different from the earlier socially-grounded ones like moneylenders, princely stepbrothers or zamindars in which their motivations are clouded. We never know, for instance, much about Gabbar, not even why his men chase the train when there is nothing on it. The earlier villains were part of a narrative with correspondence in social conflicts but not so the Shakaals or Gabbars of the 1970s. The lack of faith of the films in legitimacy of these villains is best demonstrated by 'Bobby' where he is given the same name as the actor (Prem Chopra); the villain is simply used to resolve a narrative that resists resolution.

Sanjeev Kumar as the shrouded and armless Thakur Baldev Singh.

Indira Gandhi's era was one that was confusing to the public since her rhetoric named strange adversaries (like the CIA, the judiciary, wealthy people) different from before. 'Sholay''s narrative tried to knit the social fabric through their presence as a common adversary. My proposition is that Gabbar is only a conjunctive device — with no social equivalence — to bring socially diverse groups like the police, the landed aristocracy, petty criminals and the rural public into a single narrative. This mirrors a reconciliation of various social groups within a secular-socialist framework; 'secular' is made especially important and Gabbar kills Ahmed (Sachin) to suggest it. In 'Yaadon Ki Baraat' (1973), the villain (Ajit) does what an earthquake had done in 'Waqt' (1965), which has virtually the same story otherwise — to bring various social categories together through the story of a family's break-up and reunion. We may also note that the villain gives the various participants a common larger purpose which goes beyond the family reunion.

To return to 'Sholay', its parts add up to much more that its whole and the various components have to be savoured independently as separate stories without our making too much of an effort to bring them coherently together. Gabbar, perhaps the crowning achievement of the film, especially with regard to his imprint upon public memory, may be a creation owing much to the actor who plays him. But, Gabbar, while being a dacoit, dresses in uniform and not in the traditional clothes of a dacoit as Jabbar Singh in 'Mera Gaon Mera Desh' (1971), (which is also about a petty criminal enlisted by a policeman to fight a larger evil). Gabbar's brutal acts are indiscriminate and he arguably mimics uniformed authority that need not account for itself. 'Ab tera kya hoga Kaliya?' even implies that he represents impersonal authority since he is wondering about Kaliya's fate when just about to liquidate him! The film was released during the Emergency and one is tempted to see an association between Gabbar and impersonal official tyranny. It is also significant that Thakur Baldev Singh operates alone and is not seen with the subordinates/constables that police inspectors are normally seen with in cinema. Making him an ex-policeman may also be to prevent us from seeing him as embodying the state.

Multi-starrer films are not simply a way of milking a story for its commercial potential and since each star represents a social type they are also a way of constructing a narrative that incorporates diverse social elements to help the public make sense of the happenings in the polity. Multi-starrers proliferate when the political situation is complex and difficult to fully comprehend, as it was in the 1970s.

(The author is a well-known film critic)

Why some endings should stay broken

The re-release of the Dhanush-starrer 'Raanjhanaa' with an AI-generated happy ending sparked outrage among fans and critics, writes Amogh Ravindra

Everyone loves a happy ending. Raj catching hold of Simran's hand in 'Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge'. Bhuvan's winning sixer in 'Lagaan'. Anna staying indefinitely in Britain for William in 'Notting Hill'. These moments endure because they are final and untouchable. But imagine changing them with the click of an algorithm. Anna goes big in Hollywood while William sits alone in his bookstore. Raj misses Simran's hand. In 'Lagaan', the ball is caught, the match is lost and there is "Dugna Lagaan...". It feels like harmless fun, but it rewires the story's soul.

That is why the Tamil re-release of 'Raanjhanaa' ('Ambikapathy') earlier this month sparked such a storm. This time, an AI-generated happy ending replaced the original tragedy, with Kundan surviving. Yes, there were whistles in theatres and cheers from audiences, but not a single member of the creative team, including director Aanand L Rai, writer Himanshu Sharma and actor Dhanush, was consulted. Rai called it "devastating" and a "reckless takeover". Dhanush said it stripped the film of its soul. Sharma, who built the story's emotional arc, was left out of the conversation entirely.

Eros insists they were within their rights. Legally, they are correct. Under Indian copyright law, the producer is considered the "author" of a cinematographic work, with the power to make derivative versions. But owning something does not give the moral right to dismantle it. It is like making a Rs 99 Mysore Masala Dosa and calling it authentic, then stuffing it with ice cream. Technically it is still a dosa. Spiritually it is a crime.

AI will be part of cinema's future. It can restore old footage, tweak performances and even enhance storytelling. But when it sands down the sharp edges of a narrative to make every ending neat, it begins to betray the story. Tragedies resonate because they mirror life's unfairness. They teach audiences to sit with discomfort and to carry it out of the theatre like an echo. They endure because some questions remain unanswered. That sadness, the quiet walk out of the theatre and the scene that lingers for days, is what makes a film feel real. The rough edges are familiar: a missed chance, a love that fades, a loss that cannot be explained. Even a small moment that feels relatable can strike deep. Change those moments and the bond between story and audience begins to disappear.

The danger is not just what happened to 'Raanjhanaa'. It is the pattern it sets. If heartbreak is fixed, where does it stop? Would 'Mungaru Male' turn into a family reunion? Would 'Anand' end with a cure? Would 'Baazigar' trade its climax for a group hug? Some films are classics because their endings are the truth of their worlds. Change that truth and it is no longer the same world. Cinema works because of the choices storytellers make. AI may rewrite an ending so smoothly that the original fades from memory, but it cannot replace the intent that gave it life.

Imagine if 'Titanic' returned, not only to let Jack and Rose live, but also to test the physics if both could fit on the floating door. It sounds silly, but it may be where the future of cinema might be heading towards.

Dhanush and Sonam Kapoor in 'Raanjhanaa', called 'Ambikapathy' in Tamil.

MOVIE REVIEWS

Star-studded disappointment in Rajini's landmark year

S VISWANATH

★★★½☆

Coolie

Tamil (Theatres)

Director: Lokesh Kanagaraj

Cast: Rajinikanth, Upendra, Aamir Khan, Nagarjuna, Shruti Haasan, Rachita Ram

Violence, vengeance, and vigilantism mark fanboy filmmaker Lokesh Kanagaraj's much-awaited 'Coolie'.

Riding heavily on the swag, wit and mannerisms of the mass idol Rajinikanth, 'Coolie' is an ode to the star, who is celebrating his golden jubilee year in cinema.

On learning his friend Rajashekar is murdered, a furious Daya (Rajinikanth) takes it as his life's mission to avenge his death.

The film suffers from a sloppily written script that criss-crosses and takes numerous twists and turns to no avail. Despite its many bankable stars, the film fails to provide an engrossing and wholesome experience.

'Coolie' is collated with cameos — Telugu cinema's Nagarjuna, Kannada cinema's Upendra, a blink and miss Aamir Khan representing Bollywood, and Marathi-Hindi cinema's Mahesh Manjrekar. The young director makes sure to provide 'Coolie' a pan-Indian flamboyance.

Rajinikanth plays Daya.

While superstar Rajinikanth is the pivot, principle purpose and sheet anchor for the 170-minute wafer-thin plotline, Soubin Shahir charms the audience with an arresting performance as Dayal. More so with his dance moves for the song 'Monica'. Even Pooja Hegde pales before Soubin's playful gyrations. The song is the only 'whistle podu' moment for the crowds, apart from the electric presence of their Thalaiva. If you leave out the song, the much-praised Anirudh Ravichander's music comes a cropper.

Besides Soubin, Upendra steals the limelight as Kaleesha, Daya's comrade in arms (literally).

With men forming the combatants in this highly combustible actioner, where every second person is felled with a bullet or machete, the ladies — Shruti Haasan and Rachita Ram — have nothing much to do. The villains just toss them around as bargaining chips.

By making 'Coolie' bloody and gory, Lokesh Kanagaraj has elevated villainy and violence to its full brutal form. While Rajinikanth lives and walks through his fan-pleasing role, the others play second fiddle to elevate his charisma and screen presence.

Big names can't rescue war saga

PRANATI A S

★★☆☆☆

War 2

Hindi (Theatres)

Director: Ayan Mukherji

Cast: Hrithik Roshan, Jr NTR, Kiara Advani

The latest instalment of the YRF Spy Universe, 'War 2', is perhaps also the worst of all their films.

In this sequel to 'War' (2019), spy agent Kabir (a compelling Hrithik) is back to save the country from a South Asian business cartel, Kali. Business tycoons from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, China and more have formed a syndicate, and their first mission is to assassinate India's PM. Can Kabir, considered a traitor owing to certain circumstances and on R&AW's most-wanted list, stop the assassination?

It's nice to see familiar faces like Col Luthra, as well as references to previous films. However, outdated flashbacks, cheesy dialogues, over-the-top chemistry between the leads (Hrithik and Jr NTR) and physics-defying action scenes make the movie an exhausting three-hour watch.

Jr NTR is a total miscast. His character is poorly written and lacks emotional depth. The actor fails to carry the aura of an antagonist who can match the protagonist — like John Abraham and Shah Rukh Khan in 'Pathaan', and Emraan Hashmi and Salman Khan in 'Tiger 3'. The lack of emotional depth in the characters and the story is the real concern in 'War 2'. It's the emotions in all other YRF Spy Universe films that make them memorable. Even the music of 'War 2' isn't compelling.

I would've enjoyed watching Kiara Advani in more action scenes. She plays a fighter pilot recruited in the mission to find Kabir, and is natural as she flips her gun to fight the enemy.

Now that even 'War 2' has failed to make an impact, director Ayan, who's given hits like 'Wake Up Sid' and 'Yeh Jawaani Hai Deewani', should accept action is not his strong forte.

Jr NTR and Hrithik Roshan.

Spy drama marked by restraint

RASHMI VASUDEVA

★★★☆☆

Saare Jahan Se Accha

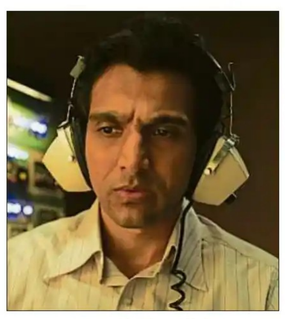
Hindi (Netflix)

Director: Sumit Purohit

Cast: Pratik Gandhi, Sunny Hinduja, Rajat Kapoor, Tillotama Shome

'Saare Jahan Se Accha', Netflix's new spy drama, has got quite the perfectly-timed release. Although far from perfect, it is atmospheric in parts and largely engaging.

Set against the backdrop of the Indo-Pak rivalry after the 1971 war, it trails R&AW (Research and Analysis Wing) officer Vishnu Shankar (Pratik Gandhi, competent as usual), who is tasked with preventing Pakistan from obtaining a nuclear reactor on the sly. The first episode begins well, with a believable backstory for the establishment of R&AW, apparently triggered by the death of India's pioneering nuclear scientist Homi Bhabha in a plane crash. It then gathers momentum as R N Kao (Rajat Kapoor), the agency's first chief, sends Vishnu to Pakistan to deal with the shadows. Vishnu is no flashy spy — he is brimming with restraint, and the series takes special pains to show his considerate side as opposed to his bosses, for whom 'cutouts' (trusted intermediaries) are people to be used and disposed of.



Pratik Gandhi

His Pakistani 'counterpart', Murtaza Malik, played with all his heart by Sunny Hinduja, is ruthless, sharp, and yet quite humane himself.

This is essentially where the series scores — unlike many other Indo-Pak dramas where all Pakistanis are 'janab'-spouting caricatures, this series treats them as people cut from the same cloth but shaped by different compulsions, ideologies and duties. This is such a refreshing change that you tend to ignore the jarring accents, the attempts to pass off stock footage as Budapest, Paris and Moscow, and even the uneven pacing.

Intelligent espionage thriller

ANGEL RANI

★★★☆☆

Tehran

Hindi (Zee5)

Director: Arun Gopalan

Cast: John Abraham, Hadi Khanjanpour

Iran wants him dead. Israel has ditched him. And India has abandoned him.

Welcome to John Abraham's new spyverse, where geopolitical tensions rattle New Delhi's power corridors before exploding into the blood-soaked streets of Tehran. Here, rough chases collide with brutal torture and killings.

'Tehran' breaks away from the glossy world of commercial spy thrillers. It's stripped down and unapologetically real.

DCP Rajeev Kumar's (John) trail is littered with corpses. All it takes is one emotional trigger for him to spiral into chaos — plunging headfirst into the Middle Eastern cauldron, breaching the espionage fortresses of nations locked in decades of shadow war.

John Abraham plays DCP Rajeev Kumar.

The officer is pulled into the Iran-Israel crossfire after a 2012 blast in New Delhi (based on real events) claims the life of an innocent girl. Collateral damage is unforgivable for our man. But his one misstep could cost India a crucial gas deal with Tehran.

The execution is slick, and the officers are constantly on the move. There is no room for grief, even when one falls in the line of duty. Neeru Bajwa and Manushi Chillar make for a strong ensemble as the team digs deep into their covert Tehran mission. The only gripe: the relentless pace occasionally leaves viewers struggling to piece the puzzle together.

There are several political layers, with a fair share of dialogue in Farsi. John delivers a steady performance. He finds a compelling foil in Hadi Khanjanpour, who plays the antagonist Asraf Khan with quiet menace and precision.

An intelligent thriller that lands its blows.

King Ke wins main event

PUNE RESULTS

Pesi Shroff-trained King Ke, ridden by G Vivek, won the Teena Katrak Memorial Independence Million, the feature event of the races on Friday.

1. Un Forgettable You Plate - 1400M: Ghirardelli (Antony Raj) 1; Opus Dei (C Umesh) 2; Spanish Eyes (Sandesh) 3; Chardikala (Trevor Patel) 4; Wb: Lnk, Lnk, 1-1/2L. T: 1:25.99. TB: Nirad Karanjawala. Fav: Spanish Eyes.

2. BK Lagad Salver -1000M: Turn And Burn (Nikhil Parmar) 1; Cellini (Trevor Patel) 2; Esperanza (Aditya Waydande) 3; Mr Brainwash (Shubham) 4; Wb: 2, 2-1/4, -3-3/4L. T: 0:58.32. TB: MK Jadhav. Fav: Turn And Burn.

3. Mayor's Trophy - 2000M: Arrived (Sandesh) 1; Caradoc (Trevor Patel) 2; Heart (Antony Raj) 3; Dexterity (Neeraj Rawal) 4; Wb: 4-1/2, 4-1/2, 1/2L. T: 2:07.08. TB: Nirad Karanjawala. Fav: Arrived.

4. Lucky Luciano Trophy - 1600M: Cascade (Aditya Waydande) 1; Yuletide (A Prakash) 2; Marlboro Man (Ramswarup) 3; Silver Braid (Neeraj Rawal) 4; Wb: 4, Lnk, 2L. T: 1:41.48. TB: Behram Cama. Fav: Cascade.

5. Teena Katrak Memorial Independence Million - 2000M: King Ke (G Vivek) 1; Black Thunder (Sandesh) 2; Nostalgia (Antony Raj) 3; Bugatti (Ajinkya) 4; Wb: 1-1/4, 4-1/2L, Nk. T: 2:05.60. TB: P Shroff. Fav: King Ke.

6. Thanda Plate - 1000M: Foujita (G Vivek) 1; Foxy (TS Jodha) 2; Dreamer (Nikhil Parmar) 3; Aeon Flux (Haridas Gore) 4; Wb: 1-1/4, 1/2, 1/2L. T: 0:59.57. TB: H Daji. Fav: Dreamer.

7. Sentosa Cove Plate - 1100M: Kavya (Nikhil Parmar) 1; Cindrella's Drean (Sandeshl) 2; Scaramouche (Ramswarup) 3; Applause (Mosin) 4; NR: Western Star. Wb: 2, 1-1/4, 4-3/4. T: 1:05.41. TB: MK Jadhav. Fav: Kavya.

Bengaluru dividends

I race: Rs 66w; 16, 21, 11p; Fc: Rs 732; Q: Rs 413; Shp: Rs 58; Thp: Rs 59; Tri: Rs 1,455 & 478; Ex: Rs 3,937 & 1,928. **II race:** Rs 21w; Rs 10, 7p; Fc: Rs 56; Q: Rs 49; Shp: Rs 33; Thp: Rs 57; Tri: Rs 61 & 21; Ex: Rs 181 & 228. **III race:** Rs 14w; 11, 14, 12p; Fc: Rs 32; Q: Rs 25; Shp: Rs 26; Thp: Rs 32; Tri: Rs 50 & 26; Ex: Rs 154 & 90. **IV race:** Rs 24w; 15, 19, 64p; Fc: Rs 144; Q: Rs 66; Shp: Rs 53; Thp: Rs 125; Tri: Rs 3,847 & 1,413; Ex: Rs 10,088 & 1,662. **V race:** Rs 29w; 15, 35, 18p; Fc: Rs 389; Q: Rs 218; Shp: Rs 107; Thp: Rs 54; Tri: Rs 857 & 284; Ex: Rs 32,096 & 9,170. **VI race:** Rs 58w; 15, 13, 11p; Fc: Rs 433; Q: Rs 155; Shp: Rs 27; Thp: Rs 71; Tri: Rs 271 & 89; Ex: Rs 9,254 & 5,288. **VII race:** Rs 15w; 10, 15, 16p; Fc: Rs 34; Q: Rs 25; Shp: Rs 26; Thp: Rs 37; Tri: Rs 47 & 20; Ex: Rs 173 & 171.

Jackpot: Rs 1,324 (534). **Runner-up:** Rs 415 (731). **Treble:** Rs 806 (14).

Social Butterfly for feature

PUNE SELECTIONS

Social Butterfly, from the stables of Dallas Todywalla and ridden by A Sandesh, is fancied to win the FD Wadia Trophy, the feature event of the races to be run over a distance of seven furlongs on Saturday. The first race starts at 2 pm.

1. Golden Guest Plate - 1000M: Mirae 1, We Still Beileve 2, Moment Of Madness 3.
2. Mysore Race Club Trophy - 2000M: Thalassa 1, Golden Kingdom 2, Regal Command 4.
3. Janardhan Salver - 1400M: Liam 1, Empower 2, Believe 3.
4. Su Chaliyo Plate - 1200M: Mulan 1, El Moran 2, Timless Fortune 2.
5. FD Wadia Trophy - 1400M: Social Butterfly 1, Money Bags 2, Encino 3.
6. Magansingh P Jodha Trophy - 1400M: Enforcer 1, Tyrannus 2, Ember Tower 3.
7. Waves Of Glory Plate - 1200M: Ariyana Star 1, Red Merlot 2, Lion King 3.
Day's best: Liam. **Jackpot:** 3, 4, 5, 6, 7. **Treble:** 4, 5, 6.

Harshit, Shivu deliver the knockout blow

BENGALURU, DHNS: Harshit Pai and Shivu M blasted unbeaten tons to help Dooravani Cricketers (1) coast to a comfortable nine-wicket win over Cavaliers Cricket Club in the KSCA Group I, Division I, II, III Under-19 Inter-club tournament here.

Cavaliers, batting first, notched up 247 for the loss of nine wickets, thanks to Vivek NP's 101.

Chasing 248 for victory, Harshit (100 n.o.) and Shivu (115 n.o.) took Dooravani over the line with utmost ease, wrapping up the chase in just 35.1 overs.

Brief scores: Cavaliers CC: 247/9 in 50 overs (Mohammed Ishaan 40, Vivek NP 101, Keerthi K Hegde 30 n.o.; Sushanth K 2-44, Amegh Verma 2-28) lt to Dooravani Cricketers (1) : 249/1 in 35.1 overs (Harshit Pai 100 n.o., Shivu M 115 n.o.).
Swastic Union CC (2): 261 all out in 46.3 overs (Rehan Mohammed 54, Mohd Mohib Jamadar 70; Vaibhav Sharma 2-45, Ujwal G Gowda 2-57, Aryansh Singh 3-51, Aryan KP 2-4) bt Bangalore United CC (1): 134 all out in 36 overs (Chirayu Reddy 36, Adhrit Rao 55; Gagan Sai K 2-20, Dhakshath P 4-31).
Vijaya CC: 261 all out in 48.4 overs (Vaibhav C 109 n.o., Hardhik Chandra 37; Agastya A Sahu 2-42, Samarth Patil 2-26, Atharva Nooli 3-43) bt Bharath CC: 110 all out in 27.1 overs (Rishabh Adiga 4-40, Vaibhav C 2-28, Hardhik Chandra 3-21).
South End SC (U-19): 54 all out in 17.4 overs (Roshan K Naidu 7-2, Siddesh A Asalkar 3-6) lt to Friends Union CC (2): 58/2 in 6.3 overs (Aadithya Vishwa Karma 37 n.o.; Anagha Bhat 2-8).
Citizen Cultural CA: 48 all out in 19.2 overs (N Lochan Charan Reddy 2-10, Vinayak Pande 4-7, G Phanni Sai Chandra 2-4) lt to Bangalore Occasionals: 51 for no loss in 7.1 overs (Krithin B 34 n.o.).
Vultures CC: 306/6 in 50 overs (Atharv Malviya 65, Akshath Prabhakar 121, Manik Raj 51) bt Jolly Cricketers: 152 all out in 37.3 overs (Samarth S Hosoor 39; Banesh S P 2-22, Manik Raj 3-22, Aditya P Singh 3-24).
Jayanagar United Cricketers: 305/6 in 50 overs (GK Saivarun 100, Rishabh Kumar S 49, Samarth Srivatsan 32, Vijay Maller 40 n.o.; Aryaansh Pareek 4-49) bt Jupiter CA: 112 all out in 34.4 overs (Aadithyan R 46; Vijay Maller 4-29, Bhavya Tushar Vunna 2-16, Nirek Bhavin Desai 3-1).
Young Lions Club: 147 all out in 30.5 overs (Karan Raghavendra 63, Manish Gowda A 40; Pradyumna AN 3-20, Kuldeep Singh Purohit 3-54, Shreehaan Arinjai 3-36) bt Chintamani SA, Chintamani: 120 all out in 32.4 overs (Yashmith K Gowda 58; Sunny Kanchi 2-35, Mohammad Rayan 3-30, Amogh Harsha 3-7).
Engrades CC: 191 all out in 48.2 overs (Micheal 31, Vedant Kumar 33, Harshith Karan 47 n.o.; Pruthvi KM 2-31, Niranjan Gupta 3-39, Gagan CM 3-34) bt Herons CC: 166 all out in 41.5 overs (Adyant E 47; Rohit R 2-39, Vedant Kumar 2-29, Monik R 3-10).

FOOTBALL LA LIGA

Barca hope to make right noise

Flick's men to open against Mallorca amidst player registration woes

BARCELONA, REUTERS

Barcelona coach Hansi Flick remains confident his club will register key players including new signings Joan Garcia and Marcus Rashford in time for Saturday's La Liga opener at Mallorca, despite ongoing financial fair play complications.

The Spanish champions are still scrambling to register players due to La Liga's strict financial rules, having spent more on signings and wages than they have generated in revenue for multiple seasons.

"For me, the situation, you can imagine I'm not happy about that. But I know the situation and I believe in the club," Flick told reporters on Friday.

"We have to wait till tomorrow. It was the same situation last season.

"We will focus on what we can change and what is in our hands. The other things, I believe in the club."

Barcelona signed goalkeeper Garcia from local rivals Espanyol in June while Wojciech Szczesny has signed an extension, but neither player has been registered yet.

The club's registration headache has been partly resolved through some dramatic internal manoeuvring involving captain Marc-Andre ter Stegen.

The German keeper initially refused to sign a long-term medical leave agreement that would clear 80% of his wages and help the club comply with financial rules.

Barcelona's prodigious young star Lamine Yamal will be looking to continue from where he left off last season when the Catalans open their La Liga campaign against Mallorca on Saturday. REUTERS

LIVE 11 PM ON FANCODE

Sidelined for at least three months due to surgery, he was stripped of his captaincy before it was reinstated when he eventually agreed to the deal.

"I think the most important thing is that everyone speaks together. Marc and the club, they spoke," Flick said.

"The most important thing for me, for Marc and the club is that he comes back.

"He's shown for many years here that he's a fantastic goalkeeper and the important thing is that he comes back and is ready to play. We'll all help him, we're all on his side."

The departure of 34-year-old defender Inigo Martinez to Saudi Arabia's Al-Nassr has also freed up crucial salary space, although Flick admitted mixed feelings about losing the veteran who was a mainstay in central defence.

"I was a little bit surprised but I could totally understand him. I'm not happy that he left, he's a fantastic player and has a great personality," Flick said.

"He was one of our leaders, he was outstanding not only as a player but also a personality in the dressing room. He deserves this and I wish him all the best."

Despite the defensive reshuffle, Flick indicated he will not rush into the transfer market, backing the versatile 23-year-old Gerard Martin to step up.

"Gerard can also play in this position. From what I've seen, I really appreciate that. Last season, as a left back, he was fantastic and improved a lot," he added.

Barcelona's coach Hansi Flick. REUTERS

AIFF counsel to mention ISL impasse to SC

The All India Football Federation (AIFF) will mention the raging issue concerning the Indian Super League before the Supreme Court on Monday. The apex court has reserved its judgement on draft AIFF constitution and a hearing is scheduled for Monday.

Hundreds of Indian and foreign footballers are living in uncertainty as the Masters Rights Agreement (MRA) between Football Sports Development Limited (FSDL) and AIFF with regards to Indian Super League is yet to be signed. The clubs have decided not to pay salaries to the players and support staff till the impasse continues.

"A discussion was held between the legal representatives of the All India Football Federation (AIFF) and the Indian Super League (ISL) clubs, on Thursday, August 14, 2025," AIFF issued a statement on 'X'.

"It has been agreed by all parties that the concerns of the ISL clubs pertaining to the delay in the commencement of the 2025-26 ISL season, and the hardship being felt by the players and other stakeholders will be conveyed to the Hon'ble Supreme Court next week, for its kind consideration," it further stated. In fact, an AIFF source said that they are willing to file a written application if the court asks for one.

"Yes we will be attempting to mention but since judgement is reserved we have to see how the judges take it. If they feel there is merit in appeal, they may ask for an application to be filed. The plight of the players, clubs and football needs to be brought to their notice," a club source said.

The AIFF on Wednesday had asked the legal counsels of the game's apex body and the ISL clubs to "hold discussions" on the teams' concerns about the uncertainty over the upcoming season of the top-tier league. Last week, 11 Indian Super League clubs had urged the AIFF to urgently bring the "current situation" of Indian football, arising out of the uncertainty over ISL's future, to the attention of the Supreme Court before which a case relating to the constitution of the national federation is pending.

Pranesh bags Challengers title

CHENNAI, PTI: Indian Grandmaster M Pranesh bagged the Challengers crown despite a setback in the final round, while Vincent Keymer laced his already assured title in the Masters section with a breezy win over Ray Robinson at the Quantbox Chennai Grand Masters here on Friday.

The talented Keymer's triumph earned him Rs 25 lakh (USD 28,500 approx), a leap into the world's top 10 ranking, and 24 FIDE Circuit points towards the 2026 Candidates.

Gukesh looks to make amends after slipping to T-6

USA's Aronian takes sole lead ahead of compatriot Caruana

ST. LOUIS (USA), PTI

World Champion D Gukesh scored one win and four draws to slip to joint sixth spot in the St. Louis Rapid and Blitz chess tournament, a part of the Grand chess tour.

Gukesh needs to score massively in the second half as only nine blitz games are left for him to stage a comeback.

Levon Aronian of the United States took the sole lead scoring 6/9 and is sitting pretty in the event ahead of overnight leader and compatriot Fabiano Caruana.

While Aronian has a total of 19 points Caruana is two points behind him and only a half point ahead of third placed Maxime Vachier-Lagrave of France.

Uzbek Grandmaster Nodirbek Abdusattorov made a comeback of sorts, matching Aronian on points in the blitz and jumped to joint fourth place along side Wesley So of United States with both having 15 points each.

Levon Aronian

Gukesh is a distant sixth on 13 point with Liem Le Quang of Vietnam and these two are three points clear of another American Leinier Dominguez Perez. Grigoriy Oparin improved his position a bit and moved to ninth spot on 9 points, 1.5 ahead of Sam Shankland.

For Gukesh the victory came over Dominguez but the four losses in all cost him dearly. Caruana lost three and went winless in blitz after a dazzling show in the rapid section while Aronian lost one won four and drew four enroute to regaining the lead.

Standings (with nine rounds of blitz remaining): 1. Aronian 19; 2. Caruana 17; 3, Vachier-Lagrave 16.5; 4-5. Abdusattorov, Wesley 15 each; 6-7. Gukesh, Liem 13 each; 8. Dominguez 10; 9. Oparin 9; 10. Shankland 7.5.

STAR IN THE MAKING

British prodigy Bodhana youngest to beat a Grandmaster

BENGALURU, DHNS

Indian-origin British chess prodigy Bodhana Sivanandan created history as she became the youngest female player to ever beat a Grandmaster (GM).

Bodhana, from Harrow in north-west London, defeated 60-year-old Grandmaster Pete Wells in the final round of the British Chess Championships in Liverpool last Sunday.

At 10 years, five months and three days, Bodhana broke the record held by American Carissa Yip, who was 10 years, 11 months and 20 days old when she defeated a Grandmaster in 2019, according to the International Chess Federation (FIDE). With the latest win, Bodhana also earned woman International Master (IM) status, one level below the woman Grandmaster title.

Bodhana Sivanandan

Woman chess great Susan Polgar congratulated Bodhana while highlighting her feat in a post on X. Last year, Bodhana had become the youngest person selected to represent England internationally in any sport.

She was part of England Women's Team at the Chess Olympiad in Budapest, Hungary, in September last with her team-mates in their 20s, 30s or 40s.

"I found out yesterday after I came back from school when my dad told me. I was happy. I hope I'll do well and I'll get another title," she had told the BBC then.

Malcolm Pein, manager of the England chess team, had described the schoolgirl as one of the most remarkable British chess prodigies he had ever seen.

Her father, Siva Sivanandan, said he remains mystified about where his daughter got her talent. "I'm an engineering graduate, as is my wife, but I'm not good at chess," he had said.

In December 2023, Sivanandan won the European Blitz Chess Championship in Zagreb, Croatia, and was dubbed "super talented" at the time. Soon after, she was among a group of young chess enthusiasts invited by then British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak to 10 Downing Street to mark the government's major new GBP 1 million investment package for the game.

French qualifier Atmane stuns Rune

CINCINNATI, AFP

French qualifier Terence Atmane toppled another top-10 player in Holger Rune on Thursday to line up a semifinal showdown with world No. 1 Jannik Sinner at the Cincinnati Open.

Atmane followed up his victory over fourth-ranked Taylor Fritz with a 6-2, 6-3 win over ninth-ranked Rune.

The 23-year-old will now face the ultimate test against defending champion Sinner, who said he "felt great" as he thrashed Felix Auger-Aliassime 6-0, 6-2.

"I don't think any words can describe how I feel right now," the 136th-ranked Atmane said after blasting 22 winners past Rune, 14 of them off his powerful lefty forehand.

French qualifier Terence Atmane returns during his shock quarterfinal win over Holger Rune of Denmark at the Cincinnati Open on Thursday. AFP

He will face a formidable challenge in Wimbledon champion Sinner, who powered through a rapid-fire opening set and bounced back quickly after dropping serve to open the second.

Sinner prevailed in a brief 71 minutes as he claimed an eighth victory in a row at this event and his 30th match win this season. In the day's only other men's match, fifth-seeded Ben Shelton -- coming off a title in Toronto -- posted a 6-4, 6-4 victory over Jiri Lehecka to book a quarter-final clash with third-seeded Alexander Zverev.

French Open champion Coco Gauff, the women's second seed, booked her quarterfinal berth with a 6-2, 6-4 victory over Lucia Bronzetti. The American next takes on seventh seed Jasmine Paolini, who crushed 2024 Wimbledon champion Barbora Krejcikova 6-1, 6-2.

Ankita sets 2000m steeplechase NR

NEW DELHI, PTI: Olympian Ankita Dhyani broke the women's 2000m steeplechase national record while winning gold at the Grand Slam Jerusalem athletics meet in Israel.

The 23-year-old Ankita clocked 6-minute 13.92 seconds to better the previous national mark of 6:14.38, held by Parul Chaudhary. With the ranking points she earned from the win on Thursday, Ankita boosted her chances of qualifying for 3000m steeplechase for the World Championships in Tokyo next month through world ranking quota.

Despite an injury-induced delay to the start of his season, Olympic 100m champion Noah Lyles believes he should be in top form for next month's World Championships. REUTERS

Showman Lyles roaring to hit top gear

CHORZOW (POLAND), AFP

Despite an injury-induced delay to the start of his season, Olympic 100 metres champion Noah Lyles reckons his form is as good as -- if not better than -- last summer when he claimed gold in Paris.

Lyles won a thrilling race at the Stade de France just over a year ago by the narrowest of margins and went on to claim bronze in the 200m when suffering from Covid.

For the first time since that Olympic 100m final, the self-proclaimed showman will on Saturday come face to face with Kishane Thompson, the 24-year-old Jamaican he pipped by just five-thousandths of a second in Paris.

"The 100m is obviously the glory race, it's obviously the one that gets you the most attention," Lyles said on Friday ahead of the Silesia Diamond League meet in Chorzow.

"I can say that if I'd won the 200m and lost the 100 it wouldn't have hit the same going back to the US for sure and probably even in the world it'd be a lot different."

Lyles played down the fact that he had not met Thompson since that balmy night in the French capital.

"Personally, I wanted to just do a one-on-one race in Jamaica," he said. "I thought that would have just been amazing, me and Kishane right next to each other, lane by lane, just us two duking it out.

"I feel like we could have sold out the crowd for sure, I thought that would have been a lot of fun."

Instead, the duo will face off in Poland with Lyles describing his run-in to the September 13-21 World Championships in Tokyo as "the most important races of the year".

"These are the biggest competitions, at high levels. This is literally prepping myself to say, 'This is what it's going to be like, if not more intense, as I get closer to Tokyo'.

The 28-year-old American predicted a fast race on Saturday, with a quartet of tried and tested US team-mates in the shape of Kenny Bednarek, Christian Coleman, Lindsey Courtney and Trayvon Bromell, as well as South African Akani Simbine in the field.

Don't Miss Tomorrow's DH on Sunday

DH DECCAN HERALD

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IN BRIEF

Misaka UFC post big win

▸ The trio of Thiem-Lalnei, Shruthi Kumari and Sanfida Nongrum scored a brace each to power Misaka United FC to a comprehensive 8-1 win over Pink Panther FC in the Karnataka Women's League at the Bangalore Football Stadium on Friday, reports DHNS.

Results: Misaka United FC: 8 (ThiemLalnei 15th, 65th, Esther TingJoukim 56th, Shruthi Kumari 63rd, 74th, Sanfida Nongrum 80th, 87th, Jyoti 89th) bt Pink Panther FC: 1 (Smeeta Sundas 26th); Roots FC: 1 (Yashika Tejwani 26th) bt United FC Kodagu: 0; Bengaluru FC: 1 (Aarushi Ramdas Govekar 71st) bt Maatru Pratishtana FC: 0.

Nilavoli to lead Karnataka

▸ Nilavoli Sethurayar will lead Karnataka at the Sub-Junior Girls National Football Championship to be held in Jorhat, Assam from August 20-30, reports DHNS.

Karnataka will begin their campaign in the group stage against Madhya Pradesh on August 21 before facing Punjab and Bihar on August 23 and August 25 respectively at the Bapuji Stadium, Mariani.

Squad: Avantika Kartik, Chaarvi S Jain, Richa Bhatia, Lekhyavaishnavi M Nemmani, Nilavoli Sethurayar, Trisha Iyer, Anisha Vivek Iyengar, Nishka Chawla, Subhathra A, Charitha M, Saanchi Ravipati, Iffah Khan, Aashmi Iyer, Derrin Tressa Sumesh, Tarini Arora, Ashrita Skanda Jayaramam, Aadhya MS, Pranitha VR, Jahnavi Reddy, Anvi Joshi.
Head coach: Ekta Krishna Patil. **Assistant coach:** Tulasi Kumar H. **Manager:** Karen Williers. **Physio:** Rasika Dhole.

Siddhanth wins chess event

▸ Siddhanth Poonja, an 8th grade student at the Sindhi School with an Elo rating 2067, scored 8.5 points out of nine rounds to emerge champion of the 21st BRDCA All India Open FIDE-rated RAPID chess Independence Day Cup on Friday, reports DHNS.

Sailesh R (Elo rating 1965) and Rohit S (Elo rating of 2010) secured the second and third spots respectively.

Sukhman wears IGU crown

▸ Uttar Pradesh's Sukhman Singh carded a four-under 66 on the fourth and final round to score a nine-shot victory in the IGU Rajasthan State Amateur Golf Championship at the Rambagh Golf Club on Friday, reports DHNS.

Sukhman's 66 came after rounds of 66-64-67 that saw him finish at 17-under 263. Punjab duo - Arjunveer Shishir and Danish Verma - ended with four-day totals of 8-under and 6-under that helped them finish at second and third positions respectively.

Standings (after 72 holes): **263:** Sukhman Singh (66, 64, 67, 66); **272:** Arjunveer Shishir (71, 70, 68, 63); **274:** Danish Verma (70, 69, 68, 67).

◆ ON TV ◆

FOOTBALL

EPL: Aston Villa vs Newcastle **(5 pm)**, Brighton vs Fulham, Sunderland vs West Ham, Tottenham vs Burnley **(7:30 pm)**, Wolves vs Man City **(10 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network, JioHotstar.**

La Liga: Mallorca vs Barcelona **(11 pm)**, Alaves vs Levante, Valencia vs Real Sociedad **(1 am, Sunday)**. **LIVE** on **FanCode.**

DFL Supercup: VfB Stuttgart vs Bayern Munich **(12 am, Sunday)**. **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network.**

Durand Cup: Shillong Lajong vs Indian Navy **(4 pm)**, Bodoland vs NorthEast United **(7 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network.**

CRICKET

3rd T20I: Australia vs South Africa **(2:45 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network, JioHotstar.**

Maharaja Trophy: Shivamogga Lions vs Gulbarga Mystics **(3:15 pm)**, Mysore Warriors vs Hubli Tigers **(7:15 pm)**. **LIVE** on **FanCode.**

TENNIS

Cincinnati Open: Semifinal **(12:30 am, Sunday)**. **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network.**

CRICKET ASIA CUP TEAM SELECTION

Tough for Gill, Jaiswal to break in

Despite their proven credentials and form, the duo faces stiff competition

MADHU JAWALI
BENGALURU, DHNS

For most cricketing nations, finding room for players like Yashasvi Jaiswal, Shubman Gill and Shreyas Iyer in the T20 squad would be a no-brainer. For India, the problem is the exact opposite; too many options, not enough spots. It's a luxury, but one that comes with its own headaches.

Gill and Jaiswal, with proven T20 credentials, have just returned from England with glowing numbers in Tests, reaffirming their class across formats. Iyer, meanwhile, lit up IPL 2025 with a run-making spree that demanded attention. On form alone, all three merit a look-in. Yet, with the Asia Cup squad likely to be announced on August 19, the question remains if any of them make the cut?

With three long-held spots having been vacated with the exits of Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, and Ravindra Jadeja from the format, you would think that creates opportunities. But the reality is the current incumbents have done enough to keep their places.

The Asia Cup, to be staged in the UAE in T20 format, will mark the formal beginning of India's build-up to the T20 World Cup next year, which they will co-host with Sri Lanka. There are still over six months to go before they defend the title won under a now-retired Rohit Sharma in 2024, so there's no immediate rush. Along with the Asia Cup, India have a busy calendar with 15 T20Is lined up: five each against Australia (away), South Africa (home), and New Zealand (home).

The selectors will get enough chances to shuffle the combination. But for now, it could, at the most, boil down to a toss up between Gill and Jaiswal for the opening slot but one that isn't technically open.

Sanju Samson and Abhishek Sharma have seized that role with a firm grip. Abhishek's 279 runs against England came at a ridiculous strike rate of 219.68, redefining powerplay hitting. Samson's 216 at 194.59 against South Africa keeps him in the frame despite a poor England series. Add to that his hundred against Bangladesh, and the selectors may not want to disturb the pair at the top.

Despite form and performance on their side, Shubman Gill (left) and Yashasvi Jaiswal may find it hard to break into India's T20 squad for the Asia Cup. AFP/ PTI FILE PHOTOS

Jaiswal, who was a back-up opener in the last T20 World Cup, and Gill, who was captain and vice-captain during India' Zimbabwe and Sri Lanka tours respectively, may consider themselves unlucky as a combination of Test commitments and the success of their replacements has prolonged their T20 wilderness that has lasted more than a year now. It's a hard pill to swallow as you don't want to be missing key international tournaments during your prime.

Iyer's case is equally tricky. His purple patches in both the Champions Trophy and IPL were impossible to ignore. But No. 3 belongs to Tilak Varma, and No. 4 is locked with skipper Suryakumar Yadav. Tilak, with 280 runs at 198.58 against South Africa, including two hundreds, and a modest 133 at 131 SR versus England, has done enough to make the spot his own. And that's before we even get to the lower order logjam. Four all-rounders are already jostling for spots, each bringing a unique skillset that the team management values.

The only place that has looked shaky is that of Rinku Singh. A combination of lack of opportunities to bat at the lower order and his own failure to grab the few that have his way, has put him in a spot but the selectors may still want to persist with him.

Such is India's bench strength that KL Rahul, vocal about his T20 World Cup ambitions, and Rishabh Pant aren't even part of this current conversation. While the Asia Cup squad announcement may or may not end the wait for Jaiswal, Gill or Iyer, the long road to the World Cup keeps the door open.

Shreyas Iyer

Gill, Jaiswal & Iyer in T20Is

Player	Mat	Runs	HS	Ave	SR	100s	50s
S Gill	21	578	126*	30.42	139.27	1	3
Y Jaiswal	23	723	100	36.15	164.31	1	5
S Iyer	51	1104	74*	30.66	136.12	0	8

India A women seal series

Yastika, Radha, Tanuja slam fifties in two-wicket win

BRISBANE, PTI

Fine half-centuries from Yastika Bhatia, Radha Yadav and Tanuja Kanwar propelled India A to a thrilling series-clinching two-wicket victory over Australia A after Alyssa Healy's brilliant knock had set the bar high for the visitors in the second women's one-dayer, here on Friday.

Following the win, achieved with just one ball to spare, India had taken a 2-0 lead in the three-match series of the multi-format tour. India A had lost the three-match T20 series 0-3.

Chasing a healthy 265 for 9, built largely on Australian skipper Healy's 87-ball 91, India were in doldrums at 193 for 7 after losing Yastika (66 off 71 balls) and Radha (60 off 78 balls).

Skipper Radha Yadav's all-round show helped India A pull-off a series-clinching win over Australia A in the one-day leg of their Australia tour. AFP FILE PHOTO

But spin-bowling all-rounder Tanuja rose to occasion by batting responsibly for her 50 (57 balls) to fashion a fightback as India A won on the penultimate ball of the match.

Talented left-arm spinner Tanuja forged a 68-run stand for the eighth wicket with Prema Rawat (32 not out), who has been brilliant with the ball in the series, as the duo took it upon themselves to thwart the home team's challenge.

The pair subdued their attacking instinct and focused on the huge task on hand. They relied on quick running between the wickets, and gradually their partnership blossomed into a match-winning stand.

Tanuja was unlucky to be dismissed with the target in sight. But Prema and pacer Titas Sadhu weathered the Australia A challenge in the final over to score the five precious runs for victory.

India A had won the opening one-dayer at the same venue by three wickets on Wednesday.

Brief scores: Australia A: 265/9 in 50 overs (Alyssa Healy 91, Kim Garth 41 n.o.; Minnu Mani 3-46, Saima Thakor 2-30) lt to India A: 266/8 in 49.5 overs (Yastika Bhatia 66, Radha Yadav 60, Tanuja Kanwar 50, Prema Rawat 32 n.o.; Amy Edgar 2-55, Ella Hayward 2-57, Georgia Prestwidge 2-68). **Series:** India lead 3-match series 2-0; **Next match:** Aug 17 (Brisbane).

Bethell to be England's youngest captain

LONDON, AFP: Jacob Bethell is set to become England's youngest international men's cricket captain after the 21-year-old was named on Friday as skipper for next month's T20 international series in Ireland.

The Warwickshire all-rounder is regarded as one of the rising stars of the English game, even though he has still to score his first professional century in any format. Bethell, however, has still been appointed to lead England in a three-match T20I series against Ireland in Dublin from Sept 17-21.

He is now in line to become England's youngest men's captain in an international match, breaking the record of Monty Bowden, who was 23 years and 144 days old when he led England in a Test against South Africa in 1888/89.

Shubhang stars in Blasters' romp

MYSURU, DHNS

Skipper Shubhang Hegde starred with a three-wicket haul and a quickfire finish as the Bengaluru Blasters overpowered the Shivamogga Lions by eight wickets in a rain-reduced six-overs-a-side clash in the Maharaja Trophy KSCA T20 here on Friday.

Electing to bowl first, Hegde's (3/7) three-wicket haul and Mohsin Khan's (2/5) one-over spell held the Lions to 62/6 after Nihal Ullal had given the Lions a promising start.

Blasters' chase was off to a flyer with the in-form Chethan LR clubbing Vidwath Kaverappa for two sixes and a four in the very first over. V Koushik scalped Chethan in the second over while Anand Doddamani (impact player) removed opener Rohan Patil to leave the Blasters at 31/2 in 2.3 overs.

Shubhang Hegde

In the day's other match, KV Aneesh (62) and Macneil Noronha (56) slammed fifties while Kranthi Kumar shone with the ball with a 4/28 effort as Mangalore Dragons defeated Hubli Tigers by 16 runs.

Brief scores: Shivamogga Lions: 62/6 in 6 overs (Nihal Ullal 31; Shubhang Hegde 3-7, Mohsin Khan 2-5) lt to Bengaluru Blasters: 63/2 in 4.2 overs by 8 wkts. Mangalore Dragons: 195/5 in 20 overs (KV Aneesh 62, Macneil Noronha 56, Kranthi Kumar 30 n.o.; Nithin Nagaraja 2-54) bt Hubli Tigers: 179/9 in 20 overs (Prakhar Chaturvedi 37, Devdutt Padikkal 60, Abhinav Manohar 28; Shreyas Gopal 2-33, Kranthi Kumar 4-28, Shreevathsa Acharya 2-20) by 16 runs.

Siddhanth bags title

BENGALURU, DHNS: Karnataka paddlers M Siddhanth clinched gold in the U-13 Youth boys singles while state-mates Arnav Mithun and Sakshya Santosh finished runners-up in the U-11 Youth boys' and girls' singles sections respectively at the National-ranking Table Tennis tournament in Vadodara on Friday.

Siddhanth scored an 11-9, 12-10, 11-7 win over West Bengal's Rajdeep Biswas in the final.

Rajdeep, however, got the better of Arnav (11-8, 6-11, 11-3, 9-11, 11-6) to win the U-11 Youth boys' title.

In the subsequent girls' singles final, Sakshya went down fighting to Maharashtra's Aadya Baheti 4-11, 9-11, 7-11, 11-13.

Bengaluru's Yashaswini Ghorpade, representing PSPB at the event, took the second spot on the podium after losing to Swastika (11-5, 7-11, 8-11, 11-5, 6-11, 7-11) in a tough title clash.

M Siddhanth poses with his spoils.

Results: U-13 Youth boys singles: Final: M Siddhanth (Kar) bt Rajdeep Biswas (WB) 11-9, 12-10, 11-7 **Semifinals:** M Siddhanth bt Gem Mahalanabish (WB) 11-3, 11-6, 7-11, 13-11. **U-11 Youth boys singles: Final:** Rajdeep Biswas (WB) bt Arnav Mithun (Kar) 11-8, 6-11, 11-3, 9-11, 11-6. **Semifinals:** Arnav Mithun (Kar) bt Sharvil Karmbelkar (Kar) 11-5, 11-8, 11-8. **U-11 Youth girls singles: Final:** Aadya Baheti (Mah) bt Sakshya Santosh (Kar) 11-4, 9-11, 11-7, 13-11. **Semifinals:** Sakshya bt Anshika Gupta (UP) 8-11, 11-8, 11-3, 11-8. **Women's singles: Semifinals:** Swastika bt Yashaswini Ghorpade (PSPB) 5-11, 11-7, 11-8, 5-11, 11-6, 11-7.

Messi's India tour gets final approval

KOLKATA, PTI

Lionel Messi's much-anticipated visit to India has received its final seal of approval with the Argentine superstar set to kick off his four-city tour in Kolkata on December 12, promoter of the event Satadru Dutta said on Friday.

Messi's whirlwind trip named 'GOAT Tour of India 2025' will be followed by Ahmedabad, Mumbai and New Delhi.

The visit will conclude after a meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi at his residence on December 15.

This will be the Argentine great's first trip to India since 2011 when he visited the country with his national team to play a FIFA friendly against Venezuela at the Salt Lake Stadium here.

"I got the authorisation and afterwards made it official (on social media). Messi will post any day between August 28 and September 1 with the official poster with all details and a small introduction of his tour," Dutta said confirming his visit.

Argentina superstar Lionel Messi has finally agreed to a four-city tour in India in December. REUTERS

Dutta met Messi's father earlier this year to present the proposal, and on February 28, Messi himself met him at his residence for a 45-minute discussion.

Messi's entourage may also include Inter Miami teammates Rodrigo De Paul, Luis Suarez, Jordi Alba and Sergio Busquets among others but Dutta refused to divulge any name.

Messi's visit will feature masterclass with children in each city, aimed at inspiring the next generation of Indian footballers.

He will land in Kolkata on the night of December 12 and spend two days and one night in his longest stop on the tour.

His December 13 schedule begins with a meet-and-greet in the morning, which will also feature a special food and tea festival. The day's highlight will be the unveiling of Messi's statue, followed by the 'GOAT Concert' and 'GOAT Cup' at either Eden Gardens or Salt Lake Stadium.

Another addition of the tour is the unveiling of his mural during the upcoming Durga Puja where fans can "post messages and draw something."

On the evening of December 13, Messi will travel to Ahmedabad for a private event hosted by the Adani Foundation.

The Mumbai leg on December 14 will feature a meet-and-greet at CCI Brabourne followed by the GOAT Concert and GOAT Cup at the Wankhede Stadium. The new addition will be the Mumbai Padel GOAT Cup at the CCI.

Aditi opens with 3-under 69 in Portland

PORTLAND (OREGON), PTI: Indian golfer Aditi Ashok produced four birdies in a row towards the end of her first round to make a solid start at The Standard Portland Classic. She shot 3-under 69 and was Tied-32nd.

Four pars at the start from the 10th were followed by a birdie on the 14th and then bogeys on the 18th and the third at which point she was 1-over. Then came a birdie run with four in a row from fifth to the eighth for a 3-under 69.

Two-time champion Brooke Henderson birdied all four par-5 holes for a 7-under 65 and was a stroke behind first-round leader Adela Cernousek.

Shubhankar is T-70

India's Shubhankar Sharma played a round of even par 71 on the opening day of the Danish Golf Championship and was placed tied-70th at the Par-71 Fureso Golf Klub in Copenhagen.

Having failed to make the cut since the Hero Indian Open held earlier this year in March, Shubhankar would be keen to avoid an early end to his week.

Veer Ahlawat shot 2-over 73 and was in danger of missing the cut as he was struggling at tied 113th.

Rayhan lies tied-8th

Indian golfer Rayhan Thomas got off to a good start in the Albertsons Boise Open, firing a round of 6-under 65 to finish the day at tied-eighth at the Hillcrest Country Club in Boise, USA.

Rayhan shot four birdies and one eagle.

Sandhu completes a resounding triumph

MYSURU, DHNS: Yuvraj Sandhu stamped his authority in the Rs 1 crore Mysuru Open on Friday, registering a thumping eight-shot win to clinch his third title of the season that also helped him consolidate his lead in the PGTI Order of Merit.

Yuvraj (61-65-62-61), who hails from Chandigarh, emerged wire-to-wire winner after an exceptional final round of nine-under 61, matching his tournament low from round one, that saw him end the week with a superb total of 31-under 249 in his very first appearance at the Jayachamaraja Wadiyar Golf Club (JWGC).

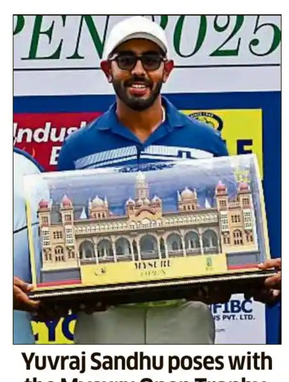
The 28-year-old Sandhu, an international winner, picked up the winner's cheque worth Rs 15 lakh that took his season's earnings to Rs 73,67,200, giving him a substantial lead of over Rs 12 lakh in the PGTI Order of Merit. The champion took home the elegant new trophy depicting the majestic Mysore Palace, Mysuru's biggest landmark.

As the preferred lie rule was in application through the week due to the rains preceding the event, Sandhu's tournament total, the lowest ever on the PGTI, will not register as a PGTI record.

Bangladesh's Jamal Hossain (62-65-64-66) came in second at a total of 23-under 257 following his effort of 66 in the final round.

Delhi's Arjun Prasad (66-62-64-66) secured third place at 22-under 258 after shooting a last round of 66.

Leading scores (after 72 holes): **249:** Yuvraj Sandhu (61, 65, 62, 61); **257:** Jamal Hossain (62, 65, 64, 66); **258:** Arjun Prasad (66, 62, 64, 66); **259:** Viraj Madappa (66, 63, 66, 64), Pukhraj Singh Gill (65, 67, 63, 64).



Yuvraj Sandhu poses with the Mysuru Open Trophy.

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DECCAN HERALD
Saturday, August 16, 2025

Wknd.

Handbags are lifestyle symbols too

STYLEFILE P02

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Cheil-28094/25

Wknd. DELIGHT

WEEKEND LIFESTYLE FEATURE

HEALTHY CHOICE

There are many health benefits you derive from air frying. It takes a significantly lesser amount of oil than conventional deep frying. Therefore, air fried food contains lesser calories and fat content. It is a better option for those who are working on losing weight or concerned about risk of heart disease. It is also believed to preserve certain nutrients.

PLATING MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Snacks served at a buffet need to be enhanced for better effect. You can use colourful garnishes that are edible, contrasting colours as well as textures for impact. Attractive food enhances the dining experience, especially at a buffet table. A white plate is advisable when the food served is colourful. The size of the plate should complement the snack you serve on it. Plating makes a difference at get-togethers at home.

TABLE MANNERS

Keep the food and drinks on two separate tables. It helps prevent crowding at your buffet table

Comfort crunch for cloudy days

Deepa Natarjan Lobo extracts some guilt-free indulgences from chefs just right for the season

Air-fried Masala Sweet Potato French Fries

By **chef Shriram Rajendran**

What you need:
- Two medium-sized sweet potatoes - peeled and cut into thick fries
- One tablespoon of olive oil or cold-pressed sesame oil
- Half teaspoon each of red chilli powder, chaat masala and roasted cumin powder
- Quarter teaspoon of turmeric
- Juice from half a lemon
- Fresh chopped coriander for garnish and salt to taste

Preparation:
Soak the cut sweet potato fries in cold water for 20 minutes - this helps remove excess starch and makes them crisp up better. Drain well and pat-dry using a clean kitchen towel. Toss them in a bowl with oil and all the spices until evenly coated. Air-fry at 200-degrees C for 12–15 minutes, giving them a shake halfway through, or bake at 220- degrees C for 20–25 minutes, flipping them once in between.

Once they are out, hit them with a squeeze of fresh lemon juice and top with coriander.

PIC COURTESY: CASSANDRA FOODS

Baked Samosa

By **chef Riwash Sharma**

What you need:
- One cup of whole wheat flour
- Half a cup each of boiled, mashed potatoes and peas
- Quarter cup each of chopped onions and chopped coriander leaves
- Half a teaspoon each of cumin seeds and coriander powder
- Quarter teaspoon of turmeric powder
- One tablespoon of olive oil and salt to taste

Preparation:
Preheat the oven to 375-degrees F (190-degrees C). Mix whole wheat flour with water to form a dough. Rest for 30 minutes. Combine mashed potatoes, peas, onions, coriander, cumin seeds, coriander powder, turmeric powder and salt. Roll out the dough into small circles. Place a spoonful of the potato mixture in the centre. Fold the dough into triangles and seal the edges.

Brush with olive oil and bake for 15-20 minutes or until golden brown.

PIC COURTESY: FIREWATER NEO BAR & KITCHEN

PIC COURTESY: TRESIND MUMBAI

Ghewar Chaat

By **chef Sarfaraz Ahmed**

What you need:
For Ghewar:
- Refined flour: 700 gm
- Whole wheat flour and gram flour: 100 gm each
- Ghee: 150 gm
- Water: 1.20 litres
- Ice: 600 gm (as per consistency)

For Chaat:
- Chickpeas: 100 gm
- Hass avocado: 25 gm
- Boiled potato: 50 gm
- Moong sprouts: 20 gm
- Tamarind pulp and fresh strawberries: 30 gm each
- Ajwain chutney: 40 gm
- Mint chutney (for topping) and pomelo: 15 gm each
- Sweet curd: 70 gm
- Yellow chilli powder and chaat masala powder: Five gm each
- Beetroot and mint powders to sprinkle
- Black salt and salt to taste

Preparation:
Ghewar:
Measure all the ingredients (refined, whole wheat and gram flours) and keep in a bowl. In a large flat bowl add ghee and start mixing with ice little by little to emulsify. Add the flour mixture slowly until everything emulsifies and you have reached the desired consistency. Heat ghee in a pan with the ghewar mould. Once the desired temperature is reached add the mixture little by little until the ghewar forms.
Remove from mould and allow it to cool.

Chaat:
Soak the chickpeas overnight, boil next day and cool them. Boil and potatoes, cool and cut into dices. Mix the chickpeas and diced potatoes with moong sprout. Add tamarind pulp (should be strained and of thick consistency) and ajwain chutney. Add the powdered spices (chaat masala, black salt, salt). Process the hass avocado, cut into dices. In a bowl add the chaat mixture and fresh dices of avocado followed by sweet curd and mint chutney.

Finish with some diced fresh Mahabaleshwar strawberries and pomelo, beetroot and mint powder. Put on top of the ghewar and serve.

Tip: Short on time? Simply use store-bought ghewar and follow the chaat recipe for a delicious twist.

LEISURE

Beetle Bailey

HI, HONEY!
HELLO, DARLING
WHAT'S WITH ALL THE SWEET TALK?
I LOST A BET
©2023 Comicana, Inc. Distributed by King Features Syndicate.
GREG MOET (WALKER)

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

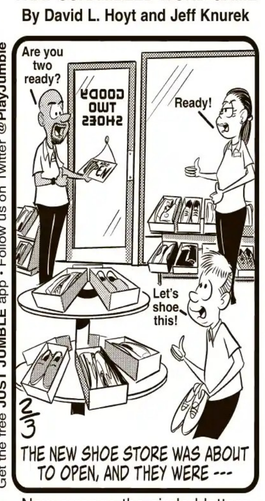
Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

RWNAD

PUERP

RSMEIY

ZAALBE



Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @Play-Jumble

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

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Ans. here: " ( ) - ( ) - ( ) "

Answers
DRAWN UPPER MISERY ABLAZE
The new shoe store was about to open, and they were — "PRE-PAIR-ED"

HITORI-109

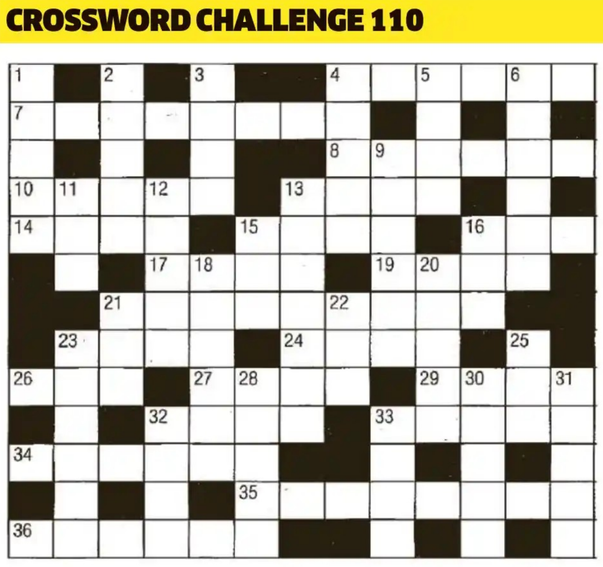
8	3	7	6	8	5	3	4
2	3	8	3	1	4	5	6
5	7	4	1	7	8	2	2
5	8	2	3	2	7	4	8
3	6	6	4	3	2	7	8
6	2	3	5	8	8	1	8
4	3	1	8	3	3	2	5
8	1	8	7	3	3	6	3

SOLUTION for HITORI-109

■	6	■	3	7	■	1	8
5	2	3	■	8	1	■	4
■	1	■	8	5	3	2	6
8	■	2	7	4	■	6	3
7	8	■	2	7	4	■	■
■	4	6	■	3	2	7	4
2	■	8	■	1	4	5	7
6	■	1	4	5	■	8	2
4	■	5	■	6	7	■	3

To solve the puzzle:
Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 110



EASY

ACROSS
4 Pill (6)
7 Pasta tubes (8)
8 Narrative song (6)
10 Economic depression (5)
13 Air in motion (4)
14 Indian dress (4)
15 Wood (4)
16 That woman (3)
17 Christmas (4)
19 Unfortunately (4)
21 Aprons (9)
23 American coin (4)
24 First man (4)
26 A sack (3)
27 Challenge (4)
29 Operator (4)
32 Monster (4)
33 Chatter (5)
34 Intelligent (6)
35 Hurdle (8)
36 Taper (6)

DOWN
1 Accumulate (5)
2 Happen (5)
3 Grasp (4)
4 Shinbone (5)
5 Hairless (4)
6 Exhilarates (6)
9 Turkish capital (6)
11 Produce eggs (3)
12 Note value (5)
13 Well-being (7)
15 Beverage (3)
16 Possesses (3)
18 Tense (2,4)
20 Madagascan primate (5)
21 Farm animal (3)
22 Lyric poem (3)
23 Perennial plant (6)
25 Not dry (3)
28 Archery missile (5)
30 Ketchup (5)
31 Wallow (5)
32 Finished (4)
33 Meat spread (4)

CRYPTIC

ACROSS
4 Again close to getting the right lease, possibly (6)
7 The recidivist's leisure when out of jail? (4,4)
8 Effortless as moths flying round the ring (6)
10 It's a dirty great ball (5)
13 One may be struck by its unearthly light (4)
14 Stand up for better pay (4)
15 Her day starts early (4)
16 Fully able to slot in nicely (3)
17 Out West, a boozer can be a studious type (4)
19 Not much of a mouser maybe? (4)
21 Desire, possibly, for public transport (9)
23 Does wrong, but just the right amount (4)
24 Look ahead, stupid fellow! (4)
26 Fresh starting points (3)
27 It was beseiged but not fully destroyed (4)
29 A bird might see it as food (4)
32 Cuts loose from the tail! (4)
33 Being slack, lose out where love's concerned (5)
34 Lads giving a wild shout with ultimate joy (6)
35 Reprimands or checks (5,3)
36 A boxed soldier? (6)

DOWN
1 A bid made with bad hesitation (5)
2 Possibly rates as damage (5)
3 An artist may do so in a quiet churchyard (4)
4 Broadcast repeatedly, perhaps (5)
5 Shortly an heir may receive nothing! (4)
6 Where, in Ireland, a six-footer's on edge (6)
9 A woman with business in the country (6)
11 We all need it, with excellent right (3)
12 Trials just finished on new sets (5)
13 In the navy, he adds a good deal to a reshuffled team (7)
15 Maybe she's only a rabbit (3)
16 In favour of a bit of comfort (3)
18 A cur, poor thing (6)
20 Ballroom experts get it right to a "T" (5)
21 Female of the cassowary (3)
22 Play with a replica? (3)
23 Make it plain that there are fish in the river (6)
25 Unit of the fleet? (3)
28 Lacking polish, being out of practice (5)
30 Machine part that goes up and down (5)
31 But a well-built vegetarian can be so! (5)
32 Let it stand the test anew (4)
33 Pool due to a bad leak? (4)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 110

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 4 R-escal, 7 Free time, 8 Smo-o-th, 10 Earth, 13 Moon, 14 Rise, 15 Dawn, 16 Fit, 17 S-W-ot, 19 A-tom, 21 Streetcar, 23 Dose, 24 Lo-on, 26 NEW, 27 Troy, 29 Grub, 32 Scut, 33 Lo-O-se, 34 Y-outfs, 35 Ticks off, 36 Sentry.
DOWN: 1 Off-er, 2 Tears, 3 Etch, 4 Resow, 5 So-O-n, 6 Ant-rim, 9 Mona-Co, 11 Al-R, 12 T-ests 13 Mate-lot, 15 Doe, 16 For, 18 Wretch, 20 Tango, 21 Sow, 22 Toy, 23 De-cod-e, 25 Bus, 28 Rusty, 30 Rotor (rev), 31 Beefy, 32 Stet, 33 Lake.

EASY
ACROSS: 4 Tablet, 7 Macaroni, 8 Ballad, 10 Slump, 13 Wind, 14 Sari, 15 Teak, 16 Her, 17 Noel, 19 Alas, 21 Pinafores, 23 Dime, 24 Adam, 26 Bag, 27 Dare, 29 User, 32 Ogre, 33 Prate, 34 Clever, 35 Obstacle, 36 Narrow.
DOWN: 1 Amass, 2 Occur, 3 Grip, 4Tibia, 5 Bald, 6 Elates, 9 Ankara, 11 Lay, 12 Minim, 13 Welfare, 15Tea, 16 Has, 18 On edge, 20 Lemur, 21 Pig, 22 Ode, 23 Dahlia, 25 Wet, 28 Arrow, 30 Sauce, 31 Revel, 32 Over, 33 Pate.

DH DECCAN HERALD
Wknd.

Comfort crunch for cloudy days
POOCH ZONE PII

Smart eating with AI

Technology and expertise together give you the best results, says clinical dietitian **Jahnavi Bhograj**

From calorie tracking to recipe ideas, artificial intelligence (AI) is becoming a powerful partner in healthy eating. Picture this - you open your fridge, snap a photo and within seconds your phone suggests three healthy recipes using exactly what you have. Or, you log your lunch with a single click, and an App instantly tells you the calories, nutrients and even how it fits into your health goals.

This isn't science fiction, it's the everyday power of AI in nutrition. From smart meal-planning tools to AI-powered calorie counters, technology is transforming how you eat, cook and take care of your health.

In India, AI-driven platforms are helping people plan balanced meals, track nutrition and discover healthier versions of their favourite dishes. You can even adapt to regional cuisines from vegetable sambar to rajma chawal or poha, making healthy eating both familiar and convenient.

Here's how AI can make healthy eating easier:

- Personalised meal plans tailored to your goals, whether managing blood sugar or aiming for weight loss.
- Instant calorie and nutrient tracking with just a photo of your plate.
- Recipe suggestions based on ingredients you already have.
- Progress reminders to help you stay consistent.

The advantage? AI learns from your eating patterns, fitness data and food preferences, offering smarter suggestions over time.

Of course, AI doesn't replace human expertise. A qualified nutritionist brings empathy, cultural understanding and medical insight that no algorithm can match. However, when the two work together - tech for the day-to-day and expert for the long-term plan - the results will be powerful.

In a world where busy schedules often push healthy eating to the sidelines, AI offers a simple, time-saving way to take charge of your diet. Combine its precision with your own mindful choices and the guidance of a trusted nutrition professional, and you'll have a recipe for lasting health.

It's raining offers at Abharan Jewellers' Mungaru Mela at Jayanagar

The Original Abharan, Udupi, presents 'Mungaru Mela', featuring attractive deals at its new store in Jayanagar, Bengaluru. You can now avail up to Rs 600 per gram off on making charges on all gold jewellery and up to 70 per cent off on making charges on select jewellery. Further, there is a flat Rs 10,000 per carat off on diamond jewellery. You can also avail a flat Rs 3,000 off per kg on making charges of silver articles. There are extra benefits on old gold exchange too. This exciting offer ends on August 16, 2025.

It's the best opportunity to indulge and shop for a wide new selection of beautifully-crafted ornaments to add to your collection.

Abharan is a highly reputed jewellery brand in Goa and Karnataka with a strong retail presence with 20 stores across 17 locations in Panaji, Margao, Udupi, Dakshina Kannada, Uttara Kannada, Shivamogga and Chikmagalur. Abharan has a rich 90-year heritage of trust that's built on four pillars – promise of true price, ethical practices, great craftsmanship and quality assurance.

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JP Nagar, 7th Phase:	Shubh Convention, 6th Main, Kothnur Main Road, Opp. Brigade Millenium Road, Puttenahalli.
Bannerghatta:	Billava Bhavana, No. 63, Opp. Meenakshi Temple.
R. R Nagar:	Vasavi Mahal Kalyana Mantapa, Next To Reliance Digital,Ideal Homes I Phase.
Vijay Nagar:	Five O Gallery 17th Cross, M.C. Road, Near Vijay Nagar Bus Stop.
Rajajinagar:	Raja Rajeshwari Kalyana Mantapa, Dr. Rajkumar Road, 2nd Block, Next to Blue Hyundai Showroom.
Malleswaram:	The Canara Union, No.42, 8th Main, Canara Union Road.
Koramangala:	Apoorva International, #35A,Raheja Arcade, Opp Star Box, Bangalore -95
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Wknd. STYLE

Avoid over-ripe and cut fruits that have been left exposed for long. Wash fruits thoroughly before consuming them

HEALTHY BYTE

WEEKEND LIFESTYLE FEATURE

GO WITH SEASONAL FRUITS

This is the season for apple, plum, pear, lychee, pomegranate and jamun. Seasonal fruits are less likely to be artificially ripened. They give you the essential nutrients you need during the season. They should be a part of your daily diet.

CITRUS FRUITS BOOST IMMUNITY

These fruits are rich in Vitamin C. They are especially good during this season when common cold and influenza do the rounds. They boost your immune system and help you fight off these infections that occur during the monsoon season. Ensure orange, lemon and mosambi are part of your diet.

Season's **Picks**

An apple a day...

The old adage about apples keeping the doctor away is best remembered now. This fruit is high in fibre. It is an antioxidant and also helps strengthen digestion. This is a season for water-borne stomach infections and a strong digestion system certainly helps.

Hydration with pear

Even though the harsh summer is past, you still need adequate hydration. Pears help in hydration. They are rich in Vitamin C and fibre. This fruit is easy on the stomach and boosts immunity. It is a must-have fruit during the monsoon season.

BOOST FOR GUT HEALTH

The ideal fruit to boost you gut health is the banana. This fruit is easily available, can be used as a snack between meals and is easy to digest. Bananas are rich in potassium and help maintain balance in electrolytes. This is especially helpful during a stomach upset that is common during this season.

JAMUN CONTROLS SUGAR

This fruit is known to have properties that boost insulin sensitivity. It helps regulate blood sugar levels. It also purifies the blood. It is highly recommended during these humid weather conditions. It must be a part of your fruit basket through the monsoon season.

Fruit better than juice

It is always advisable to consume fruits rather than juice. Fruit juice invariably contains added sugar and lacks the fibre content whole fruits offer. Also, you can make fruits a healthy snack in between meals. The absorption of nutrients is better when fruits are eaten on an empty stomach.

Handbags are lifestyle symbols too

The couture sensibility of Indian designers can create a bag rich in zardozi, mirror work or even Kundan - a glamorous statement akin to a jewelled clutch with global appeal, writes **Prasad Bidapa**

Designer: Rehane
Bag: Coach
Model: Elora Da Silva

Photographer: Akash Sharma
Event: Palladium presents Walk of Luxury with Prasad Bidapa

Fashion **Notes**

Handbags have always been more than just accessories - they are cultural artifacts, status markers and personal style statements.

From Victorian reticules to the sleek silhouettes of the 20th Century, handbags have mirrored women's evolving roles in society. By the 1950s, the rise of the 'it bag' - think global brands - turned handbags into investment pieces and lifestyle symbols.

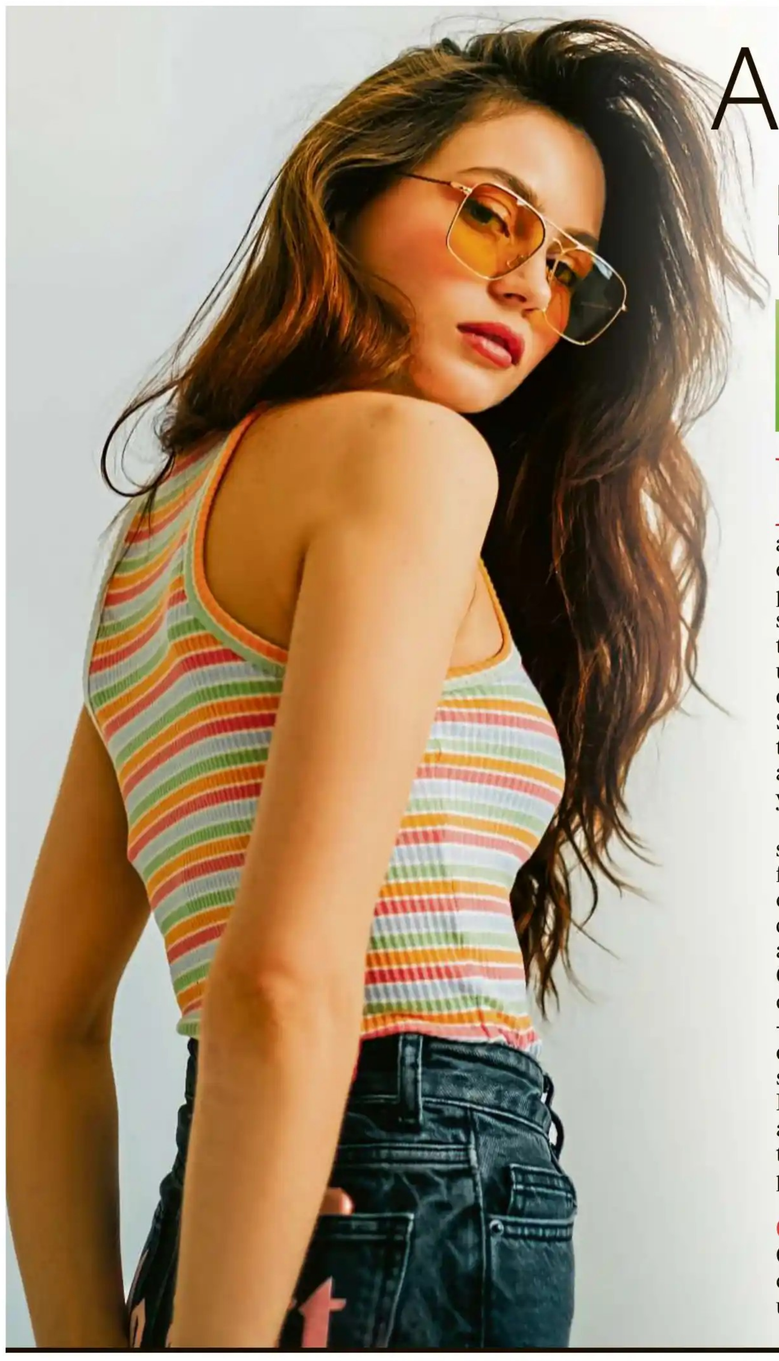
Today, large global brands such as Dior, Louis Vuitton, Coach and Kate Spade have elevated handbags into objects of desire, each embodying storytelling, branding and craftsmanship. While Dior's Saddle Bag and the LV Neverfull are internationally recognised, Coach and Kate Spade have carved a niche by blending accessible luxury with American design ethos - Coach through its heritage leatherwork and Kate Spade with its playful, feminine identity. Both exemplify how strong brand storytelling can transform bags into global cult items.

Indian designers too must step into this space now. The couture sensibility of Indian designers could birth a bag rich in zardozi, mirror work, or even Kundan - a glamorous statement akin to a jewelled clutch with global appeal. Also, Indian designers with a minimalist ethos and mastery of Indian textiles, can offer a counterpart to global leather classics - a refined, sustainable bag rooted in handloom traditions.

Imagine a handbag made from Banarasi brocade or ajrakh-dyed fabric, detailed in brass or silver accents, and structured for urban utility. Not just a bag - a story, a tradition, a movement. India deserves its own uber bag, rooted in culture, yet globally relevant. With the right vision, the Indian uber bag can redefine luxury - not through logos, but through legacy.

Designer: Vaishnavi
Bag: Kate Spade
Model: Advaita

Bag: Coach
Model: Rahul Raj Purohit



Accessories make a statement

Belts and sunglasses enhance any ensemble effortlessly. **Jayanthi Madhukar** has a style guide to help you make the most of them

Style **File**

If you dress to impress, you likely understand the importance of accessorising. Accessories are the finishing touches that elevate an outfit - be it a belt, a pair of sunglasses or shoes. Each season ushers in new trends, often inspired by the world around us - vintage revivals, retro charm or modern tech aesthetics. Sometimes, a bold scarf might transform your ensemble, and at other times, a few charms on your handbag may do the trick.

For those who find accessorising a challenge, here are a few guiding principles. Begin by considering your outfit. A formal dress does not call for the same accents as a casual, off-duty look. Once your outfit is selected, decide what you wish to highlight - is it the waist, neckline, fabric or face? This decision will help shape your accessory choices. For example, if it's the face, think about statement earrings. If it's the hair, consider an elegant clip, pin, headband or scarf.

Golden rule

Choose one statement accessory and keep the others understated to avoid visual clutter. Bold accessories work best with simple ensembles. A plain T-shirt and jeans can be instantly elevated with a wide belt, striking sunglasses or a standout handbag.

Conversely, a glamorous or heavily printed outfit calls for subtler accompaniments - perhaps a slim belt or a solid-colour bag in a complementary tone. Above all, balance is key. Avoid letting two bold accessories compete for attention.

We turn the spotlight on two accessories that can elevate your outfit with minimal effort - belt and sunglasses.

Belts: Sleek, structured and effortlessly stylish

A skinny belt in black or brown leather with a minimalist buckle adds a note of sophistication. It's perfect for cinching a plain dress or refining a monochrome shirt-and-trousers combination. It's a versatile essential for both work and formal settings. That same belt, worn over a patterned dress, brings structure without overwhelming the look.

For something bolder, a wide belt lends drama and definition to voluminous trousers - especially when paired with a distinctive buckle. Fabric, braided and chain belts offer a touch of glamour when worn over jumpsuits, dresses or skirts. These variations allow experimentation without sacrificing elegance.

Sunglasses: Elegant with practical edge

Sunglasses should offer comfort, protection and, of course, style. When choosing frames, consider your face shape - angular frames flatter round faces, while oval or rounded styles soften square or rectangular features.

Frame colours should enhance your overall outfit. If your jewellery features silver tones, opt for silver-framed sunglasses for a cohesive and edgy finish. Pay attention to detailing - subtle embellishments such as crystal accents can lend glamour.

This season, vintage styles continue to dominate. Time-tested and timeless, classic silhouettes remain popular. Among them, tortoiseshell frames stand out for their ability to instantly add character and sophistication. For those wishing to tread lightly on the planet, customised sunglasses made from sustainable materials such as bamboo are increasingly in vogue.

In terms of styling, pair versatile basics - a white tee, denim and a tailored jacket - with a classic pair of aviators. For a bolder statement, mirrored or colourful aviators can add personality. A vintage pair of aviators can hold its own alongside a glamorous ensemble - be it Western or Indian. And for sporty looks, there's no shortage of sleek, performance-minded options, from wraparound shields to futuristic lenses.

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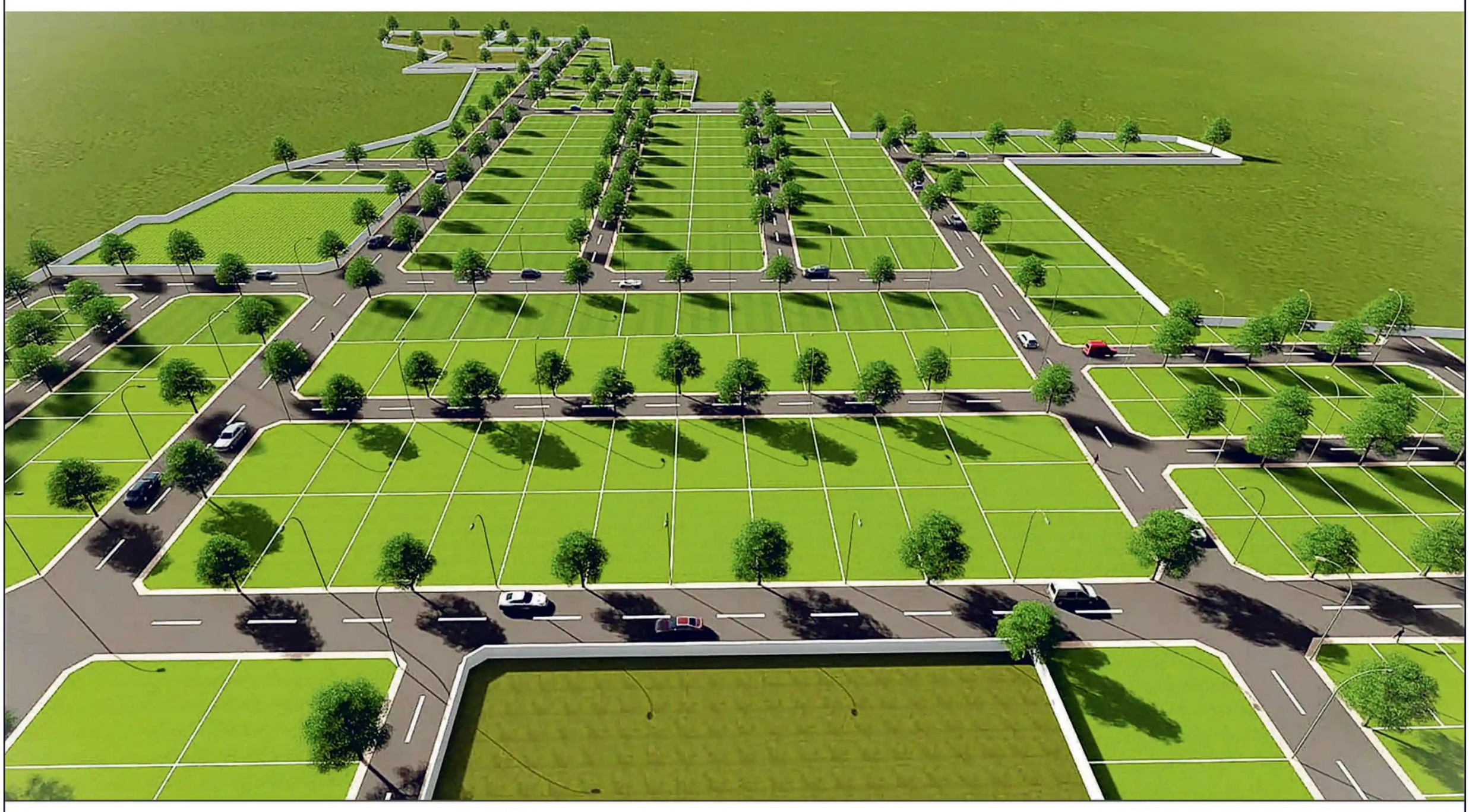

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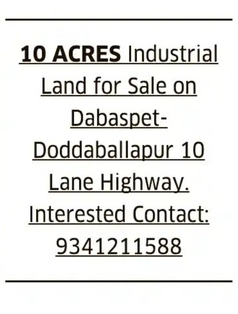

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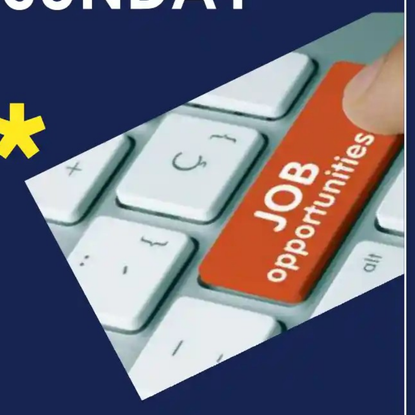

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Change of Name

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **S. Sanjay** S/o B. Saravanan residing No.359, Wheeler Road, Cox Town, near Banaswadi railway station Bangalore- 560084, have changed my name from **S.Sanjay** to **B.S. SANJAY CHETTY** vide affidavit dated 12-08-2025 sworn before advocate and notary TV. Uday Kumar K. at Bangalore

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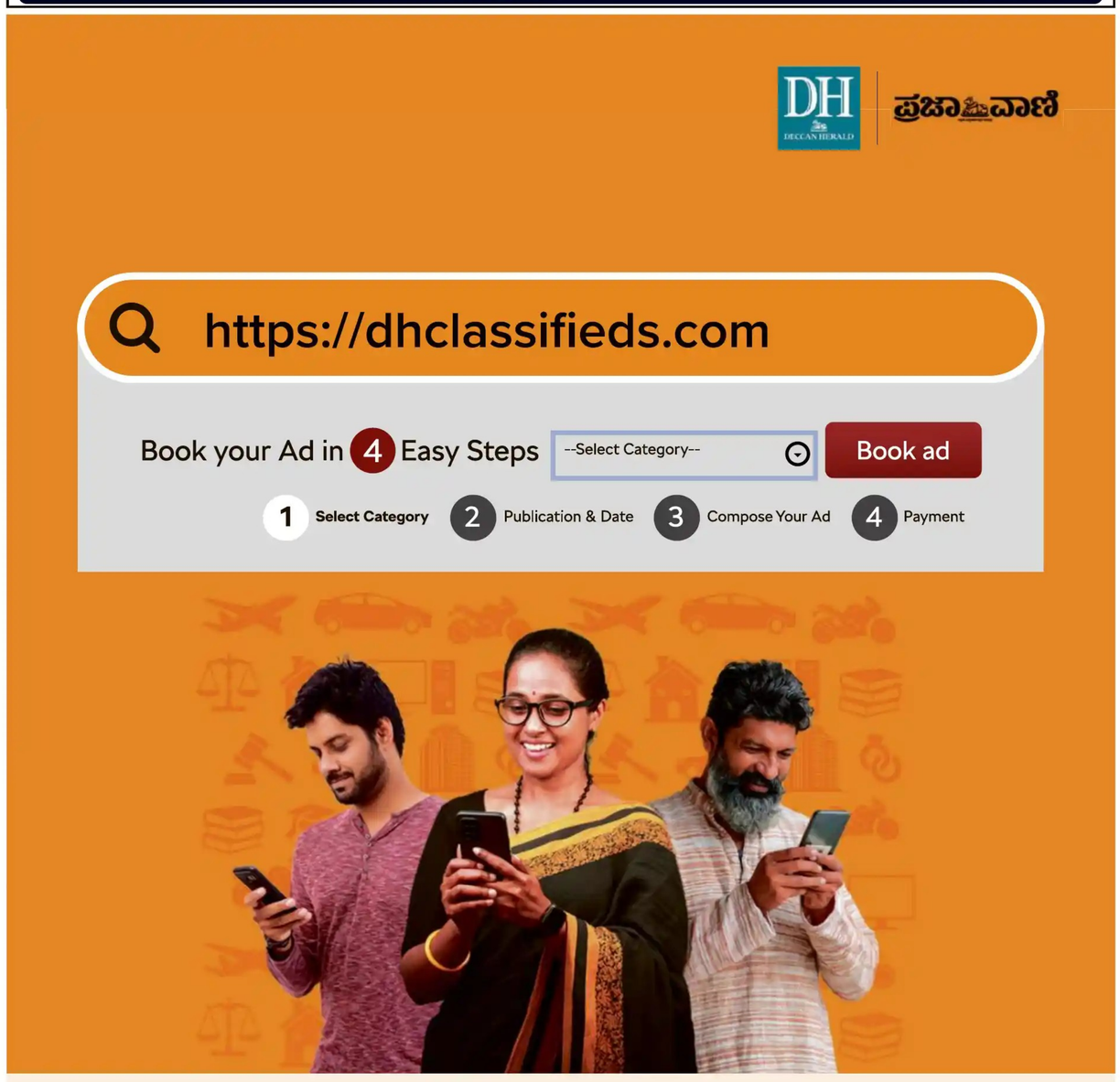

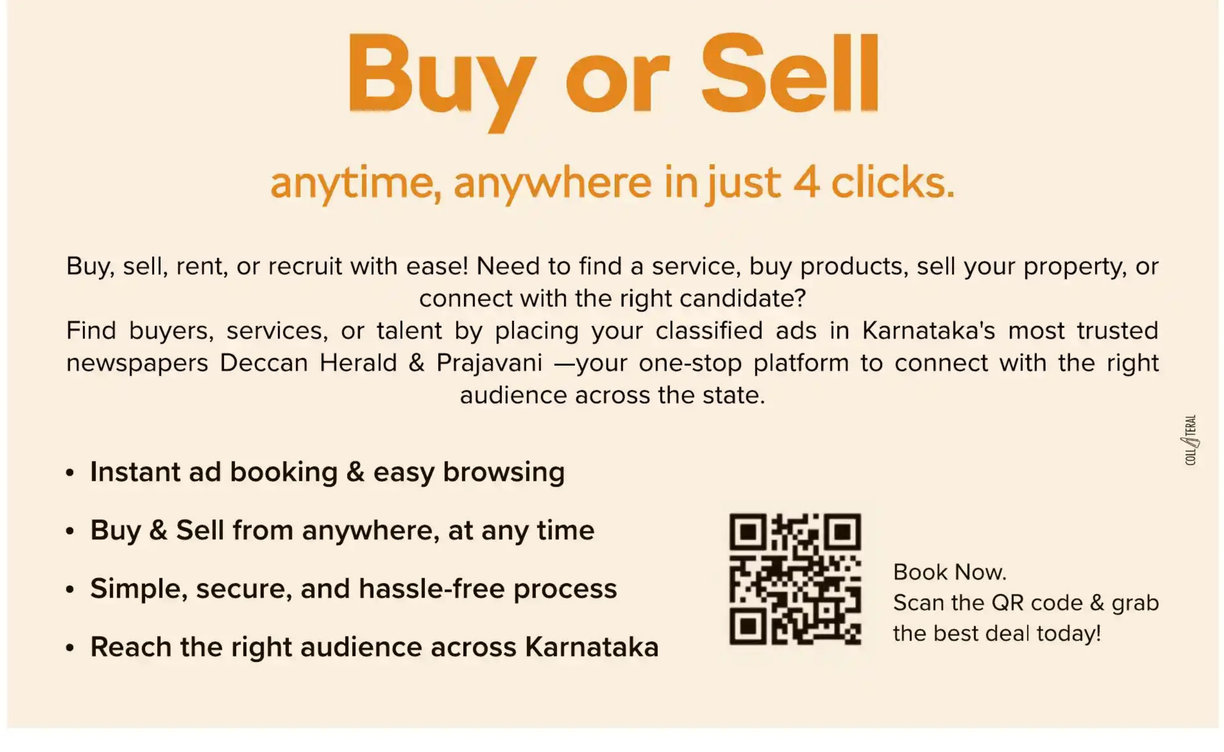
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